MANGETSU MONOGATARI

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ZERO COMICS

MANGETSU MONOGATARI

満月物語

中村春菊
SHUNGIKU NAKAMURA

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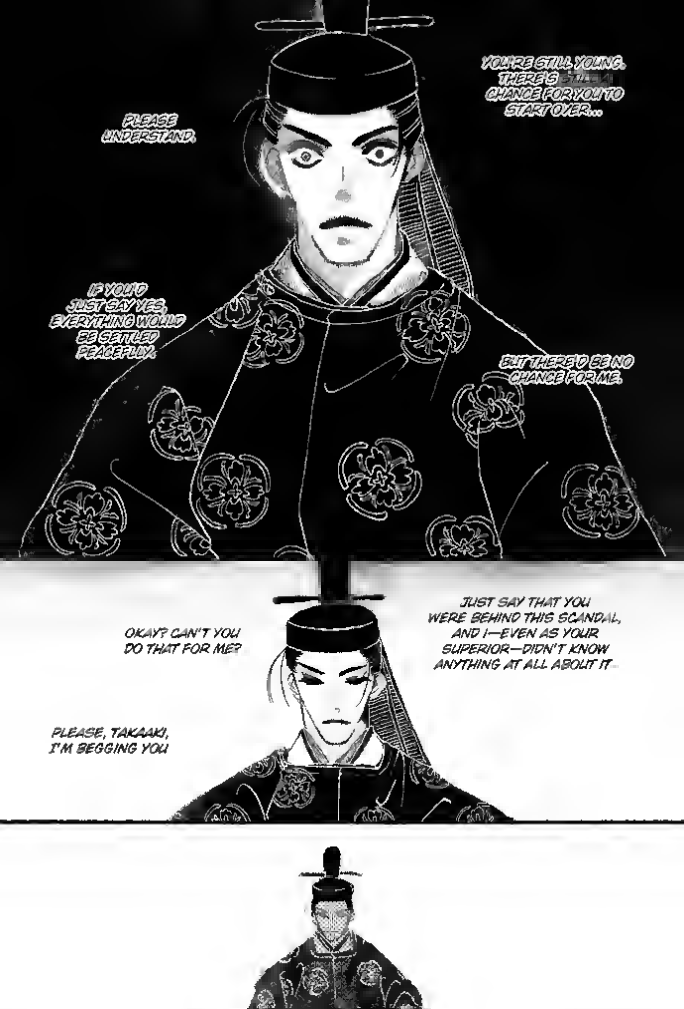
満月物語
MANGETSU MONOGATARI
KNOWS
ONLY THE MOON
RUSTLE
THUD
BDMP
BDMP

満月物語
まんげつものがたり
MANGETSU MONOGATARI
Chapter one


PLEASE UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG. THERE'S A CHANCE FOR YOU TO START OVER...
IF YOU'D JUST SAY YES, EVERYTHING WOULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY.
BUT THERE'D BE NO CHANCE FOR ME.
OKAY? CAN'T YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
JUST SAY THAT YOU WERE BEHIND THIS SCANDAL, AND I—EVEN AS YOUR SUPERIOR—DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT IT.
PLEASE, TAKAAKI, I'M BEGGING YOU.

whirrr
cricket
whirrr
chirp
whirrr
whirrr
whirrr
HEY!
TAKA-AKI
YOU IN?
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
AHH!

woof
woof
MEOW
MEOW
meep
chirp
HEY, NARUHITO.
MEW
MEW
MEOW MEOW
I DECIDED TO START UP A ZOO.
NOT AGAIN!
WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS?!
HEY NOW.
I WAS TOTALLY SERIOUS EVERY TIME
YOU CAN'T JUST MOCK PEOPLE LIKE THAT!
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WERE A FARMER AND TURNED THE GARDEN INTO A FIELD!?
AND BEFORE THAT, YOU CLAIMED YOU WERE A MONK IN TRAINING AND HID IN THE MOUNTAINS!

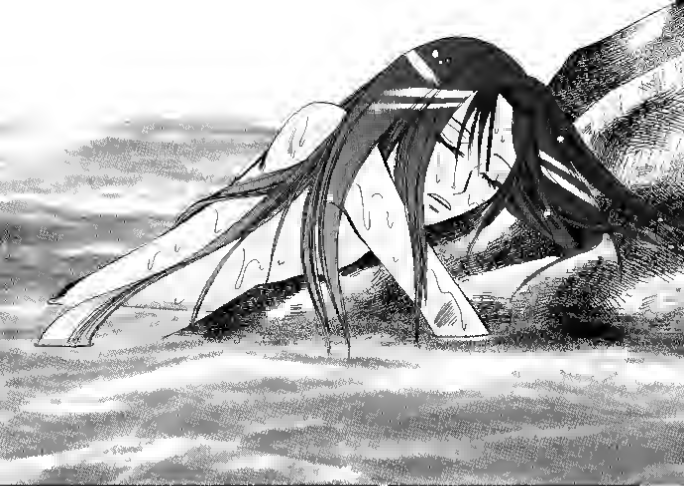
mew
mew
HERE, ISN'T IT CUTE?
IT'S A TIGER CUB.
SO? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
JUST KIDDING. Dummy.
OH!
Pat Pat
THAT'S RIGHT, I NEED A FAVOR.
WELL, HAVE YOU HEARD OF "PRINCESS KAGUYA OF THE SLENDER BAMBOO"?
NOPE
SHE LIVES IN THE HOME OF AN OLD BAMBOO-CUTTER IN SAGANO,
AND SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ALIVE

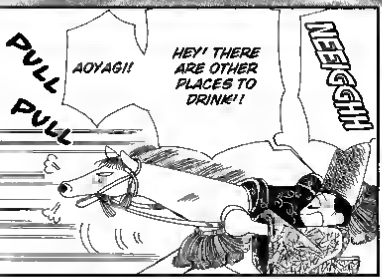
...AND HER ORIGINS ARE SO STRANGE!
THE OLD MAN WENT OUT TO CUT BAMBOO, AND SAW A SHINING, BAMBOO STALK.
WHEN HE WENT AND CUT THE STALK IN HALF, THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GIRL INSIDE—JUST TEN CENTIMETERS TALL!
HE TOOK HER HOME, AND SHE GREW INTO A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN JUST THREE MONTHS! SINCE LIGHT SHINES FROM HER BODY, HE DUBBED HER PRINCESS KAGUYA*, AND SHE'S STILL WITH HIM RIGHT NOW! ♡
*PRINCESS KAGUYA - "THE SHINING PRINCESS"
DON'T TELL ME YOU SERIOUSLY BUY ALL THAT
ISN'T THAT JUST AMAZING?!

—IF I COULD LOOK OUT FOR YOU SO YOU HAD A BETTER SHOT AT MEETING THE PRINCESS, RIGHT?
EX-ACTLY!
SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY GUYS EVEN IF I BROUGHT HER A GIFT, SHE WOULDN'T EVEN LOOK MY WAY...
SO I WAS WONDERING...
AND THAT BRINGS ME TO THE FAVOR...
YOU SEE... THERE ARE LOTS OF GUYS WHO ARE OUT AFTER HER HAND.
C'MON, PLEASE!
JUST COME WITH ME!!
WHAT —?!
DREAM ON.
DON'T YOU GET IT?!
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN COME FROM BAMBOO IS MORE BAMBOO!
YOU JUST KEEP ON GETTING TRICKED OVER AND OVER!
YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT!
PLEASE COME! AREN'T WE FRIENDS?!

whirrr
click
Whirrr
click
OH! THERE ARE THE TWO WHO RAISED THE PRINCESS!
THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY ARE MUCH WORSE HERE
MPH
Wound up coming along
HERE
HERE
CHIRP CHIRP
MY LORDS, I'M SORRY YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE IN THIS HEAT...
BUT NO MATTER HOW OFTEN YOU COME, THE PRINCESS SIMPLY WON'T ACCEPT YOUR FEELINGS.
NOW, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND LEAVING ...
WHY DOES SHE KEEP REJECTING US LIKE THIS?!

OHHH...
I... I DON'T KNOW
NO MATTER WHAT I ASK HER, SHE JUST ASKS ME TO FORGIVE HER, AND SHE SAYS SHE'S SORRY SHE CRIES HER HEART OUT EVERY NIGHT.
KNOWING THAT SHE'S UPSETTING ALL OF YOU CAUSES HER SO MUCH PAIN...
WHOA.. OUR PRINCESS REALLY CARES ABOUT US
NARUHITO, I'M OFF TO WATER THE HORSE.
SURE.
DREAMY
RUSTLE RUSTLE
THIS IS SO STUPID AND POINTLESS
WITH HER HIDDEN AWAY LIKE THAT I BET SHE'S JUST ANOTHER SUETSUMUHANA*!
*SUETSUMUHANA: A LADY FROM THE TALE OF GENJI WHO NEVER SHOWED HER FACE. THOUGH SHE WAS THOUGHT TO BE BEAUTIFUL, SHE WAS REALLY PLAIN



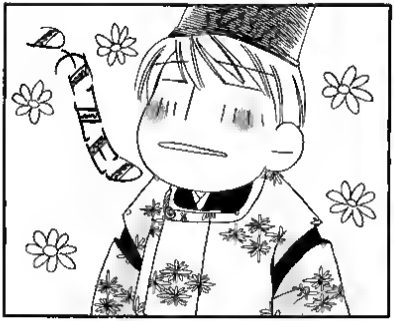

PULL
PULL
AOYAG!!
HEY! THERE ARE OTHER PLACES TO DRINK!!
NEIGH!!

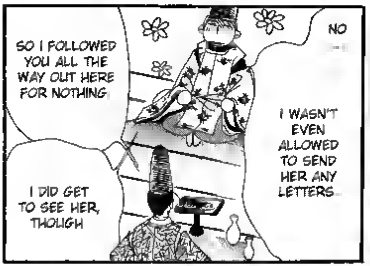
FORGET IT, THERE'S NO WAY I'M GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS!
A BODY?!
!
C'MON, AOYAG!, LET'S GO!

HAAAHHH!
JOLT
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
WHO'RE YOU?
SO YOU WERE ALIVE?
AH, DOESN'T MATTER
WHAT, YOU THOUGHT I'D DROWNED?
SORRY 'BOUT THAT!
SPLISH SPLASH!!
!
YOU'RE A GUY!
YEAH, SEE!
I ALL READY SAW IT
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
SWIM-MING
IT'S PRETTY HOT, YOU KNOW? IT FEELS GREAT TO JUST FLOAT AND STARE AT THE SKY.
WANNA TRY?
I'LL PASS

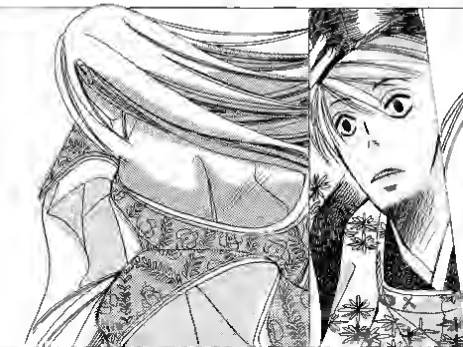
I CAME TO SEE THAT PRINCESS KAGUYA OF YOURS
WHY'RE YOU SO FAR OUT ON THE MOUNTAIN?
OUT HAWK-ING?
THUS
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SOUNDS BAD. ANYWAY THE ONE WHO WANTS TO MEET HER IS MY FRIEND, I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HER
GULP GULP
THAT PLACE IS ALWAYS SO FULL OF PEOPLE
WHAT, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE LECHERS?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT A GIRL COMING FROM BAMBOO IS JUST CREEPY.
SHE'S THE TALK OF THE CAPITAL DON'T YOU THINK SOMEONE WILL WIN HER OVER?
REALLY? THAT'S WEIRD

A HA HA
YEAH, IT REALLY IS! YOU GOTTA ADMIT THE STORY IS JUST TOO FAR-FETCHED!
EHE HEHE
HOW CRUDE
OH YEAH, IF I DON'T GET BACK SOON, THEY'LL GET MAD
ARE YOU A SERVANT AT A MANOR AROUND HERE?
HEHEHE, YOU WANT TO KNOW?
TOO BAD, IT'S A SECRET !!
R
O
S
T
E
L
EEK! EEK!
HA HA HA
AHA HA HA


DEAD


SO I FOLLOWED YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR NOTHING
I DID GET TO SEE HER, THOUGH
NO
I WASN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO SEND HER ANY LETTERS

AND?
DID YOU GET TO MEET HER?



THERE WAS THIS SUDDEN GUST OF WIND
AND THE SCREEN FELL DOWN.

I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HER FACE, BUT SHE LOOKED GORGEOUS!
HER KIMONO WAS SIMPLE, BUT THAT JUST MADE HER LOOK EVEN BETTER.
OVERCOME
THUMP
SEE HER FACE
MAN, I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE ALIVE RIGHT THEN!
THAT'S NICE.
A SERVANT?
BUT THERE AREN'T ANY PRIVATE MANORS AROUND HERE.
THERE WAS THIS WEIRD GUY THERE.
I THINK HE WAS A SERVANT, BUT HE WAS REALLY OBNOXIOUS ...
HOW ABOUT YOU, TAKAAKI? WHERE'D YOU GO?
HIROSAWA LAKE
WELL, WHATEVER ...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE RIGHT.

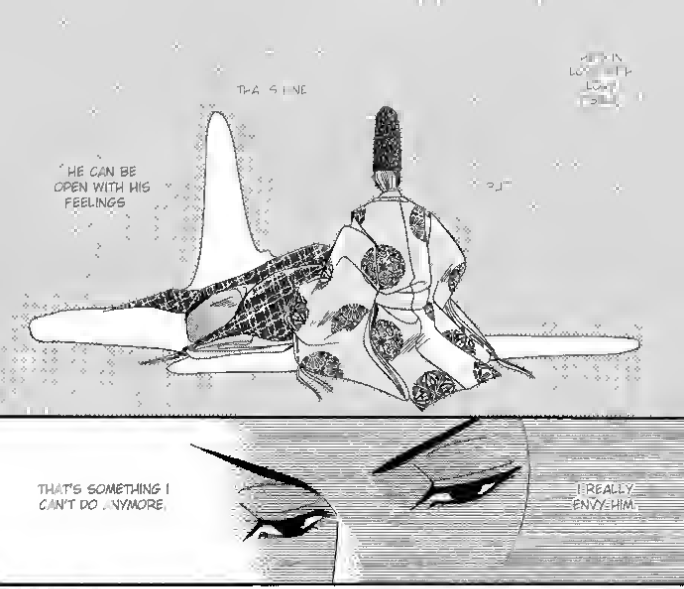
YO!
WANNA KEEP ME COMPANY TODAY?
CRUNCH
.....
YOU'RE WEIRD TOO, YOU KNOW...
YOU KEEP HANGING AROUND, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO WIN HER OVER AT ALL, DO YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT...
I JUST DON'T GET WHAT EVERY-ONE'S SO EXCITED ABOUT
IT'S A TOTAL GAMBLE WHO'LL GET HER, BUT THEY'RE STILL LIKE THAT...
MUNCH
THE *PRINCESS* WON'T EVEN TAKE ANY LETTERS, YOU KNOW?

SO WHAT?
IF SOMEONE CAME WITH THE JEWELED BRANCH OF HOURAI,
THE JEWEL FROM AROUND THE DRAGON'S NECK, OR THE ROBE OF THE FIRE RAT, SHE SAID SHE'D MARRY HIM
BUT EVERYONE JUST IGNORED ALL THAT, DIDN'T THEY?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S THE BEST WAY?
THE ONLY WAY TO BE FAIR?
MUNCH MUNCH
FAIR'S GREAT,
BUT WHAT MAKES ME SICK IS THAT NARUHITO'S GETTING TRICKED BY THAT KIND OF WOMAN
MUNCH MUNCH
OHHH, I GET IT! YOU'RE JEALOUS OF HER!!
I'M WHAT ?!
HM? C'MON, YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT! WHILE NARUHITO'S ALL OBSESSED OVER THE PRINCESS, HE ISN'T PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO YOU SO YOU'RE ALL ALONE
SIGH
.....
SLIP
POP
!!!
SPLISH SPLASH

SO,
WANT ME TO BE YOUR LOVER?
CAUGH
!
YOU KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE CARRYING THE MISERY OF THE ENTIRE WORLD ON YOUR SHOULDERS?
C'MON, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING TO DO WHEN YOU'RE WAITING FOR NARUHITO, DO YOU?
A CHANGE OF P-CE'D DO YOU (GOOD
I'VE GOT TONS OF FREE TIME AND NO ONE TO PLAY WITH
THEN FRI-ENDS'
SORRY, NOT INTO THAT
I'M NOT UP FOR BABY-SITTING
SHOO

.....
WAHH
IT'S NOT LIKE I PLANNED ON BEING MISERABLE ALL THE TIME, BUT...
UGH.
UH
NO— I'M JUST SO TOUCHED—
QUIT ACTING LIKE A CRYBABY!!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? DID SHE FINALLY REJECT YOU?!
UGH
...
AHH,
WAH
...
WAHHH

THE PRINCESS REMEMBERED ME...
IT TRULY GLADDENS MY HEART, BUT...
I KNOW YOU ALWAYS COME TO SEE ME, MY LORD.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR FEELINGS...
AND PLEASE FORGET ABOUT ME.
I WAS SO OVER-JOYED.
OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE HERE, SHE SINGLED ME OUT.
LIKE I COULD EVER FORGET HER!
I LOVE HER SO MUCH.
.....
TRUTH IS...
NARUHITO DOESN'T KNOW A SINGLE THING ABOUT PRINCESS KAGUYA!



WHAT?
WHETHER IT'S PILLOW-TALK OR COMPLAINTS, WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT TO TELL HER, YOU'RE TELLING HER!
AND IF YOU WON'T SAY A WORD, THEN I'LL FORCE YOU!

LET'S GO SEE PRINCESS KAGUYA.

RUSTLE RUSTLE
LISTEN! CAN YOU HEAR THAT BEAUTIFUL CRYSTAL VOICE?
THAT'S THE PRINCESS
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE THE ONLY GUYS IN SIGHT
I'VE HEARD IT SOMEWHERE
?
NO NO!
I CAN'T ACCEPT THOSE!
THEY BROUGHT ALL THESE THINGS JUST FOR YOU
WON'T YOU COME OPEN THEM, OR JUST WATCH?
PRINCESS, THOSE SUITORS BROUGHT YOU MORE PRESENTS AGAIN TODAY.

SOB
I CAN'T ACCEPT THEIR FEELINGS, SO TAKING THESE GIFTS WOULD JUST MAKE ME A WICKED GIRL
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
PRIN-CESS
.....
.....
I KNEW IT THIS VOICE
Gwon!
Don't say that!
THUMP
HAHHH!
MAN, I'M BEAT! I CAN HARDLY TAKE ALL THAT BOWING AND SCRAPING ALL DAY!
REALLY!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE THOSE TOY PECKING BIRDS, BOWING UP AND DOWN!
PUMP
RIGHT?
BUT WE'LL LIVE, YOU KNOW? SO LONG AS IT KEEPS THE GIFTS FLOWING.
JUST KID-DING!

NOW, NOW, THOSE GUYS HAVE TO GET A GLIMPSE OF PRINCESS KAGUYA EVERY NOW AND THEN
BUT THIS SUCKS!
RUSTLE
WHY DO I HAVE TO WEAR A KIMONO WHEN IT'S SO HOT OUTSIDE!?
?
?
?
?
WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY A WHIT ABOUT MONEY, THANKS TO THOSE POMPOUS FOOLS!
WE GOT A NICE PRICE FOR THE LOT OF IT!
SO GRAMPS, HOW'D WE MAKE OUT LAST MONTH?
RATTLE

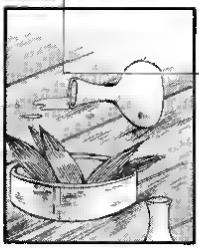
IT'S 'CAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY LECHERS OUT THERE
I'M ALL SWEATY AND ICKY, SO I'M OFF FOR A SWIM
click click
THERE ARE SO MANY IDIOTS IN THIS DAY AND AGE!
ALL THIS FROM STARTING SOME RUMOR!
EH, YOU'RE GOING OUT LIKE THAT?
DON'T WORRY, THERE'S NO ONE AROUND!
click click
THOSE GUYS FROM THE CAPITAL WOULD TOTALLY FALL OVER IN SHOCK!
A HA HAH
MAN!
A TOTALLY OBNOX-IOUS
THAT THEIR PRINCESS KAGUYA IS REALLY
THOUGH, I BET IF I MET ANYONE HERE, THEY'D GET COLD FEET
CLICK

UGG HHH!
GRAMPS!
UGGGHH, MY HEMOR-RHOIDS...!
GRAMPS!
...QUIT WITH THE LAME LIES...
AHH!
PRIN-CESS!
OUR POOR FRAIL PRINCESS JUST FAINTED!
THAT'S USELESS
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT WE SETTLE THIS PEACE-FULLY RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
click click
WITH THIS?
REALLY, THAT'S ENOUGH
THIS IS SO CRUEL

YOU BELIEVED THAT CRAZY STORY ON YOUR OWN FREE WILL, YOU KNOW.
WE DIDN'T DO NOTHING.
DO YOU GUYS HAVE A CONSCIENCE AT ALL?!

AND I— I—I—I REALLY LOVED HER!!
YOU—YOU JUST CHEAT PEOPLE!!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

drank in despair
I'D GUESSED SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS UP...
YOU REALLY DON'T SEEM THAT SURPRISED...
SNORE
SNORE

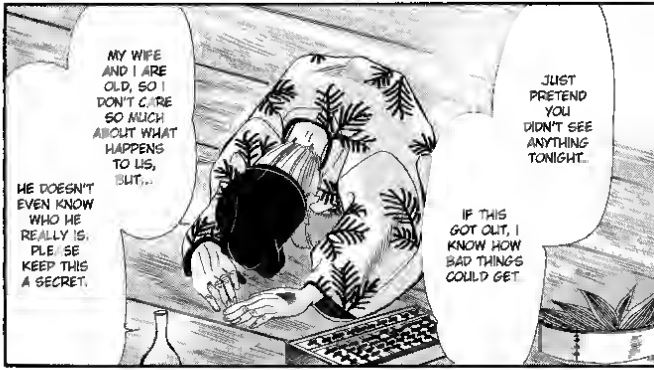


YOUR SON?
NO.
SO HE'S YOUR GRANDSON?
NOPE.

WHEN I FOUND HIM IN THE BAMBOO GROVE,
IT LOOKED LIKE HE'D FALLEN FROM A CLIFF
?
NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE IS,
NOT US,
NOT EVEN HIM.
THANKFULLY, HE WASN'T THAT HURT,
BUT HIS MEMORY WAS COMPLETELY GONE
HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE HE LIVED,
OR WHAT HE WAS DOING,
OR EVEN HIS NAME.
I WANTED TO FILE A REPORT ABOUT FINDING HIM,
BUT HE WAS DEAD SET AGAINST IT...
THOUGH HE HIMSELF DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHY.
ANYWAY, WE DECIDED TO LET HIM STAY HERE UNTIL HE GETS BETTER,
AND THAT'S HOW THINGS STAND NOW.

BUT
THAT WAS THE REAL STORY...
SLIP

Corrupt Old Man
MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND, YOU KNOW!
click click
SO YOU DECIDED TO DRESS HIM AS A GIRL AND MAKE SOME EASY CASH OFF THIS WHOLE PRINCESS KAGUYA THING?


MY WIFE AND I ARE OLD, SO I DON'T CARE SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO US, BUT...
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHO HE REALLY IS. PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET.
JUST PRETEND YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING TONIGHT.
IF THIS GOT OUT, I KNOW HOW BAD THINGS COULD GET

I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING

I'M BEGGING YOU

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
THIS WHOLE THING WAS SUSPICIOUS FROM THE START, AND ALL THIS DOES IS VERIFY THAT.
BEYOND THAT I JUST DON'T CARE.
YOU GOT IT.
LEAVE NARUHITO TO ME.
I'LL TAKE A LITTLE WALK TO SOBER UP.
whirrr...
cricket
chirp

HE REALLY IS PRETTY ENOUGH TO PASS FOR A GIRL
NO, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE ISN'T A GIRL THAT HE'S SO BEWITCHINGLY BEAUTIFUL
HI
YO
SO GRAMPS TOLD YOU EVERY-THING?
YEAH.
'KAY

I WAS PROBABLY SOME HORRIBLE PERSON.
SOMETHING I HEARD.
HOW COME?
SEEMS THAT HUMANS CAN MAKE THEMSELVES FORGET BAD THINGS OR THINGS THEY SHOULDN'T REMEMBER.
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
YEAH. COMPLETELY...
TOTALLY, UTTERLY BLANK.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE WORKING AGAINST YOURSELF HERE ...
MY MEMORY WENT POOF. COULD BE, RIGHT?
BAM
AND...
SLAM
MAYBE I'D STOLEN SOMETHING AND THE POLICE WERE CHASING ME, THEN I WENT TOO FAR AND—
I MEAN, IT'S WEIRD THAT I FELL OFF A CLIFF.
.....
DO YOU WANT TO ERASE YOUR PAST OR SOMETHING?
YOU GET TO START YOUR LIFE OVER.
BUT IF YOU LOOK AT IT ANOTHER WAY, YOU'RE ACTUALLY REALLY LUCKY.

I FEEL LIKE I'M NOT THE REAL ME.
SINCE I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING UP 'TILL NOW,
ER, WELL
NOT ME.
I AM.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHEN MY MEMORY WILL COME BACK
YOU'RE AFRAID?
EVEN THOUGH I'M HAPPY NOW,
I DON'T KNOW HOW THE OLD ME WAS
I MEAN,
WHEN MY MEMORY COMES BACK, DON'T YOU THINK WHO I AM RIGHT NOW WILL DISAPPEAR?
SINCE I CAN'T BELIEVE IN WHO I AM RIGHT NOW, YOU KNOW?

WOULD YOU
HAVE ENOUGH FAITH IN YOURSELF TO ENDURE THIS?
whiiir
crunch
crunch

CRUNCH
WHIRR
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
MMM
THUMP
THUD
SLAM
OWWW, MY HEAD
WHAT'S GOING ON THIS EARLY
WHOOOSH
AHHHHHHHHH!
K—
K—
KAGU—
YA—
YOU—
JU—
JU—
JU—

—GEMU JUGEMU GOGU NO SURIKIRE *
JU
POAR
NO !!
JUST LOOK!
IT'S THE IMPERIAL BRIDAL ARRANGE-MENT!
*THIS IS THE START OF A POPULAR CHILDREN'S CHANT OF JAPANESE NAMES
.....
SIMPLY PUT, Looks like YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE EMPRESS.
HUH?
OH
TO WEAR TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
BRIDAL ARRANGE-MENT?
AND ALL THIS IS TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE VISIT
TH—THIS MORNING A MESSEN-GER CAME AND SAID THE EMPEROR WANTED TO SEE THE PRINCESS, SO WE HAVE TO VISIT THE PALACE
LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS YOU FOR EMPRESS, TOO
WHAT !!??
ERGGH!

COUGH COUGH
WHAT'S WRONG, GRAMPS?!
URGHH. MY HEMORRHOIDS ...
I DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER, SO YOU GUYS SHOULD MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR LIVES ...
AND HOW LONG IS THAT?! YOU GREEDY OLD MAN!
WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!
YOU'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE PITS OF HELL
WAHH, JUST FORGET ABOUT ME
.....
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?!
NARUHITO, LET'S GO
HUH?! BUT...
THEY'RE GETTING WHAT THEY DESERVE
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
TURN
TAKAAKI!

HEY, CAN WE REALLY LEAVE THEM LIKE THAT?
HEY,
YOU LISTENING, TAKAAK!
THEY'RE JUST COMMONERS! AN INSULT TO THE EMPEROR WILL BE A DEATH SENTENCE!
TAKA-AK!!
BUT THAT WAS YESTER-DAY, RIGHT?
THOSE GUYS DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AT HANDLING THIS ALONE!
THIS IS SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
WE DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING
THAT'S WHAT I WORKED OUT WITH THE OLD MAN LAST NIGHT
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I WOULDN'T PROTEST AT ALL WHEN THE PUNISHMENT WAS DISHED OUT.
I'D JUST
SO YOU WANT TO GO AGAINST THE EMPEROR?
WELL

START IGNORING ANYONE WHO HAD A HAND IN THE SCANDAL WITH A GLANCE OF PITY.
DON'T YOU THINK ANYONE INVOLVED WOULD END UP MISERABLE? THINK IT OVER
TAKAAKI
HE WAS A TALENTED GUY WITH A PASSION FOR HIS WORK
AND THEN THAT SCANDAL WITH HIS SUPERIOR CAME INTO LIGHT
HE...
WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS

I'M BEGGING YOU. DO THIS, AND YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS AT ALL IN YOUR NEXT LIFE
PLEASE. IF YOU COULD TAKE THE BLAME FOR ME, EVERYTHING WOULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? JUST THIS ONCE? PLEASE...
YOU STILL HAVEN'T STARTED A FAMILY AND YOUR PARENTS HAVE PASSED AWAY. DON'T YOU HAVE LESS TO LOSE?
TAKAAKI WAS FINALLY PERSUADED TO DO IT,
AND THEN WAS REMOVED FROM OFFICE
IT WAS MORE BEING ASKED BY SOMEONE HE RESPECTED AND TRUSTED THAN ACTUALLY TAKING THE BLAME ITSELF THAT TOOK ITS TOLL ON HIM.
THAT'S WHY HE WAS SO COLD TO YOU GUYS
HE WANTED YOU TO REALIZE YOUR SITUATION
.....
YOU'RE ACTUALLY REALLY LUCKY. YOU GET TO START YOUR LIFE OVER...
AFTER THAT HE WASN'T THE SAME, AND COULDN'T MUSTER THE ENERGY TO DO ANYTHING.
ALL HE DOES EVERY DAY IS SIT AROUND...

OH NO, LORD TAKAAKI HAD THE RIGHT OF IT...
WE REALLY DO DESERVE IT...
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
HMM... AFTER THINKING THINGS OVER, WE DECIDED TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT AT NIGHT...
RUN AWAY... BUT TO WHERE?
OH!
I KNOW!
I'VE GOT A VILLA IN UJI!
IF YOU SNEAK INTO THE COMPOUND AS SERVANTS, NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW!
OH, WE COULD-N'T
WE'RE ALL ON EQUAL GROUND IN EMERGENCIES! DROP THE FORMALITIES AND TAKE MY HELP, PLEASE!
NARU-HITO
TOUL
I'M SO HAPPY!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THINKING OF US
LIKE THIS
SLIP

UGH!
THROB
SSSSTTTT?
HEY, HE WAS THE ONE WHO SAID TO TAKE HIS HELP
REALLY, EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS, HE JUST MELTED
WE CAN USE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE
he he he
WHISPER!
CRIMINALS
whiiirr
criiii
whiiirr
criiii
TAP
TAKA-AKI!
TAP
TAP
TAKA-AKI, YOU THERE?!
SLAM
KAGUYA NEEDS OUR HELP!
AH!

HEY THERE, NARUHITO.

WHAT?! DON'T TELL ME
I DECIDED TO BE A FUR TRADER
WH... WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!

FORGET ABOUT THAT, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
I HEARD THAT THE EMPEROR COULDN'T WAIT ANYMORE,
SO HE'S GOING TO SEE KAGUYA TONIGHT

WOULD A KITTEN BE THIS BIG?
YOU SKINNED THOSE ANIMALS FROM BEFORE ?!
(Dio)
THAT'S SICK!

HEY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
YOU THINK I CARE?
THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN ESCAPE!
HIS RETINUE AND VASSALS WILL ALL BE THERE!
OH?

HELP ME OUT HERE! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF!
march, march,
.....
!
AREN'T YOU WORRIED?!
HOW CAN YOU JUST SAY THAT?!

WH
WHAT THE HELL!
FLUSH

WHEN I WAS IN TROUBLE
NO ONE HELPED ME, NOW DID THEY?

SLAM
FINE THEN!
GRR...
SO YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO HELP ANYONE ELSE?!
LISTEN TO ME!
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
EACH PERSON DECIDES ON HIS OWN WHETHER TO HELP OR NOT!!
EVERY-ONE FOLLOWS HIS OWN SET OF VALUES!!
GEEZ, THESE PELTS MESS EASY
HE TOTALLY TRAMPLED THEM ON HIS WAY OUT
TAKA-AKI

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY POLITICAL POWER, SO I COULDN'T DO A THING...
WHEN YOU WERE EXPELLED FROM OFFICE...
AS HAVING FAILED YOU.
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT...
REALLY HURTS...
THAT YOU DOUBTED THAT...
THEN AND FOR-EVER...
WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS.

TAP
TAP
TAP
YOU'RE SO... BEAUTIFUL
ENOUGH TO CHARM A YOUNG MAN'S HEART
WITH A YELLOW-GREEN SKIRT
AND A FINAL RED ROBE,
WITH A VIBRANT PURPLE UNDER-ROBE
A PATTERN OF WOVEN RED PLUM BLOSSOMS ON A CHINESE-STYLE WHITE ROBE,

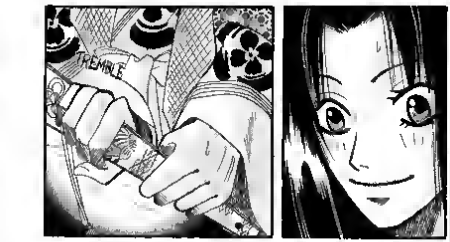
DECKED OUT LIKE THIS, I'M THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!
FWUMP
FWUMP
AHA HA HA!
IF YOU WERE A GIRL...
UGGHH

NO MATTER WHO THE GIRL IS, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'D COOL A MAN'S LOVE?
WITH THIS ON, I CAN MAKE MY MOVE ANYTIME!
I'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY AROUND IT, AND IN THE MORNING I'LL TAKE A PISS AND SHIT IN THE BED!
HEHEHE, WHEN THE EMPEROR DECIDES TO SCREW ME,
HOW'S THAT?

AS DISGUSTING AS EVER...
DESPAIR
AND I'LL GET OFF MY DIET OF POTATOES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS! HOW SWEET IS THAT!!
A HA HAH!!

SO DON'T WORRY. I'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK
YOU'RE

ARE YOU SET?
THEY'RE HERE!
YEAH, JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!


TREMBLE

IT'S NO GOOD THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

YANK
!

CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP

YOU'RE SANUKI NO MIYA-TSUKO?
HEHE
I'M HONORED BY YOUR VISIT TO MY LOWLY HOME
Y—YES, SHE'S BEEN WAITING WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION FOR YOUR ARRIVAL
THE PRINCESS IS INSIDE?
CRASH
crick
crrrii
whiirr
crrrii
WH—WHO—?!
SHH!
JUST LISTEN TO ME
OH!

ARGH!!
CRASH
W—WHAT?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
GET THE EMPEROR SOMEWHERE SAFE!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
CRASH
BANG
THUD
SLAM
OH NO, THE WATCHFIRES!
IT'S TRAITORS!
FIND THEM!
!?
CLOMP
CLOMP
OVER THERE!

IT'S A DEMON !!
CLOMP
CLOMP
GRIN

CLOMP
CLOMP
GET ON !!
AH!
THAT'S
TAKA-AKI?

CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP

POKE POKE
OH!
DOOMED
OH
OH GOD
AHHHH! A DEMON, A DEMON!!
WAIL
WAIL
WAIL
OH MY GOD! A DEMON STOLE OUR PRINCESS!!
WAIL

NEEDLESS TO SAY,

THE NEXT DAY .

WHAT— WHAT— WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

THUMP

THE PRINCESS HAS JUST BEEN KIDNAPPED !

YOU'LL TAKE PITY ON US, WON'T YOU?

THE STORY OF THE ABDUCTION OF PRINCESS KAGUYA...

AAAHH

OH NOO

ARRGHHH

WAHH

SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL.

FUJIWARA NO NAKUHITO'S VILLA IN UJI

AND NATURALLY,

THE WHITE DEMON .

PRINCESS

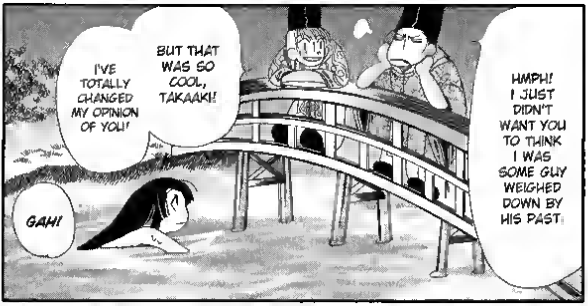
PRINCESS

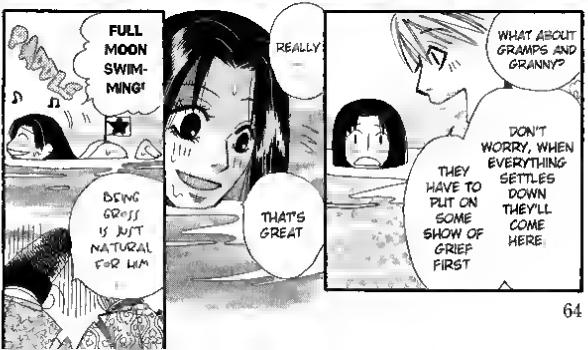
sniff

THAT KIDNAPPED THE PRINCESS...

WAS NEVER FOUND

I THOUGHT YOU HATED GETTING DRAGGED INTO THINGS
I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU RESCUING ME


I'VE TOTALLY CHANGED MY OPINION OF YOU!
BUT THAT WAS SO COOL, TAKAAKI!
HMPH! I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK I WAS SOME GUY WEIGHED DOWN BY HIS PAST
GAH!


FULL MOON SWIM-MING!
PANTS
REALLY
WHAT ABOUT GRAMPS AND GRANNY?
DON'T WORRY, WHEN EVERYTHING SETTLES DOWN THEY'LL COME HERE
THEY HAVE TO PUT ON SOME SHOW OF GRIEF FIRST
THAT'S GREAT
BEING GROSS IS JUST NATURAL FOR HIM

NO USE ESCAPING REALITY.
NAH, I CAN TAKE IT.
TAKA-AKI
DO YOU STILL WANT TO FORGET THE PAST?
SPLISH
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
WAS THAT REALLY HIM?
IT'S OUR SECRET ♡
!
WHAT? HIS EXPRESSION

FOR AN INSTANT HE SEEMED LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.
DID I IMAGINE IT?
HOW ABOUT TAKAAKI?
ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT TO CHANGE YOUR NAME.
KAGUYA ISN'T GOING TO WORK, YOU KNOW.

NARUHITO, HOW ABOUT WE NAME HIM "SPOT"?
ANYWAY,
THAT'S MY NAME!
IT LOOKS LIKE
HUH?! I'M NOT A DOG!!
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT AGAIN
HOW 'BOUT YOU CHANGE YOURS, THEN?
.....

ZERO COMICS

満月物語

まんげつものがたり

中村春菊

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MANGETSU MONOGATARI

SHUNGIKU NAKAMURA PRESENTS

絶世の美女と噂のかぐや姫。
彼女を一目見たい、という友人の付き添い役を
渋々引き受けた隆明たか、池で裸の姫の水浴ひ
シーンに遭遇、その時、トンデモない一面を
目撃してしまった!! 実はかぐや姫の正体は。
インチキお告げ屋・かぐや姫誘拐事件・鬼退治
など"イベント盛り沢山、昔話の常識を
超えた傑作平安コメディ!

The first chapter of this manga is closely linked to the story Kaguya-Hime no Monogatari (The Tale of Princess Kaguya). This is a famous story throughout Japan, and as such, this manga assumes some knowledge of the tale.
In the traditional story, the bamboo-cutter was out getting bamboo when he saw a glowing stalk of bamboo. When he cut it open, he found a tiny girl inside and named her Princess Kaguya (The Shining Princess). When she grew to full size, she was so beautiful that men came to see her from far and wide, hoping to win her heart. However, she refused to speak with them. In order to belay the suitors, she set them impossible tasks to win her hand. These were to bring her the jeweled branch of Houraisan, a jewel from around the dragon's neck, a robe of the fire rat, a stone cup of Buddha, and the swallow's Cowrie shell. All the suitors failed. After rejecting them, it was revealed that Princess Kaguya was in fact from the moon, and she was forced to return there.
Enjoy this utterly whacky and divergent take on the old story.

MANGETSU MONOGATARI

NAKAMURA SHUNGIKU

SCANNER	BELIAL
TRANSLATOR	KALENDEL
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QUALITY CHECK	KALENDEL

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満月物語

MANGETSU MONOGATARI

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

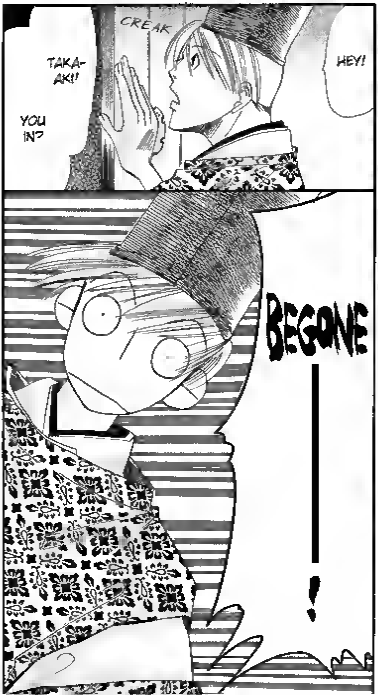
TELL ME YOU LOVE ME.

TELL ME MY NAME.
chapter two
MANGETSU
MONOGATARI
満月物語

LATELY...
I'VE BEEN HAVING LOTS OF HEADACHES.
WHEN I DO, I CAN VAGUELY...
REMEMBER SOMETHING.

MAN,
I TOTALLY HATE THE COLD.
GAH..
IT'S COLD

FUJIWARA NO TAKAAKI'S MANOR

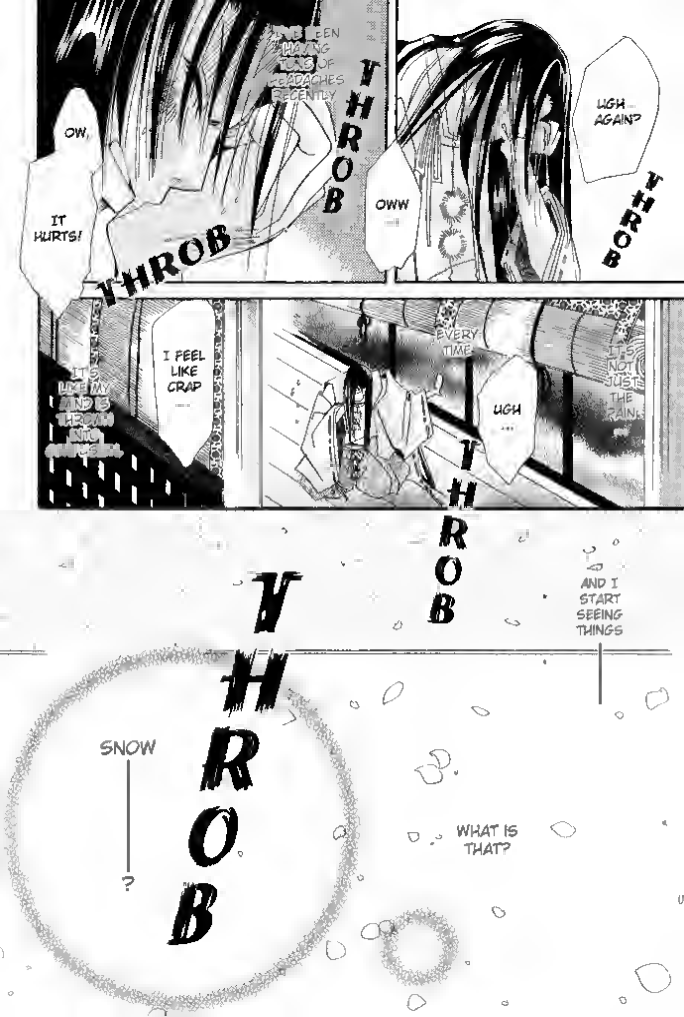

CREAK
TAKA-AKI!
YOU IN?
HEY!
BEGONE
!

AT THE HOME OF THIS IDLE MAN...
GRAMPS, GRANNY AND THE GORGEOUS "PRINCESS" HAVE BEEN LIVING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW

REPENT! IF YOU REFUSE, FALL TO THE PITS OF HELL!
STARTING THIS NIGHT, PLACE SARDINE HEADS* ON YOUR PILLOW BEFORE YOU SLEEP!
IF YOU DO THAT, GOOD FORTUNE WILL COME TO YOU!!
YES, SIR!

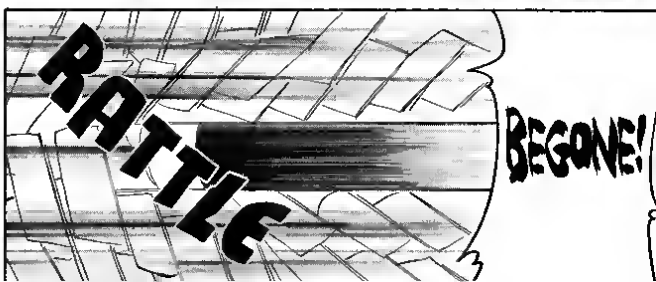
*TRADITIONALLY USED TO KEEP BAD FORTUNE AWAY AND BRING GOOD FORTUNE IN

Nondenominational
LIKE YOU SAW, I'M DOING DIVINATIONS.
YOU'RE FAKING AGAIN?!
HEY, THAT'S HARSH.
CUSTOMERS EVEN GET A FREE CHARM AGAINST EVIL.
PEACE OF MIND FOR A SMALL FEE.
THOSE WHO BELIEVE WILL FIND SALVATION.
SIP
BIG BAD FOUR
THIS IS GOING TO COME BACK AT YOU SOMEDAY
HE'S AS GROSS AS EVER
No matter how pretty he is
GEEZ
♪
trala
NEXT !!
UH
I HAVE TO TAKE A SHIT
CAN YOU SPELL ME FOR A BIT NARUHITO?
SHOO SHOO
C'MON, YOU'RE IN THE WAY THERE ARE LOTS OF CUSTOMERS.
!
THROB
tralala
ONCE IT'S ALL FLAT I CAN GO EAT SOME MORE
ONCE IT'S ALL OUT MY TUMMY'S
POOPIES, POOPIES, LET'S GET 'EM ALL OUT,


I'VE BEEN HAVING TONS OF HEADACHES RECENTLY
THROB
OW,
IT HURTS!
THROB
OWW
UGH AGAIN?
THROB
I FEEL LIKE CRAP
IT'S LIKE MY HEAD IS THE DRUM AND SOMEONE
EVERY TIME
UGH ...
IT'S NOT JUST THE RAIN
THROB
THROB
AND I START SEEING THINGS
SNOW
?
WHAT IS THAT?

YOU WANT TO FIND YOUR LOST SON,
THAT IT?
YES, WE LOST HIM THREE MONTHS AGO NEAR HERE
HIS NAME IS SAKUYA, AND HE'S SIXTEEN
THEN WHY WOULD HE RUN AWAY?
HE REALLY IS A GOOD KID
I HAVE NO IDEA
JUST THAT
SAKUYA HAS A BROTHER AND HE ALSO WENT MISSING.
FORGET ABOUT THAT ONE!
JUST FIND SAKUYA FOR US!
IF HE DOESN'T COME BACK, I'LL—!
CALM DOWN!
SO PLEASE
I'M SORRY
WE REALLY DON'T KNOW IF HE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH SAKUYA RUNNING OFF.

FWIP
OM
ALL YE BUDDHAS, BE THOU HUNGRY, THOU ATE! *
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL START THE DIVINATION RIGHT AWAY.
FWIP
THEY WANT SAKUYA BACK, BUT NOT HIS BROTHER?
WEIRD PARENTS
*HE'S PULLING THIS ENTIRE THING OUT OF HIS ASS
JING
JING
HEY, YOU SURE THIS'LL WORK?!
LET THERE BE ONENESS WITH BUDDHA!
FUMP
FUMP
FUMP
JING
JING
FWIP
FWIP
EAT THY FOOD, BRUSH THY TEETH, AND BE WELL IN THY SLEEP!


RATTLE
BEGONE!

IS VERY NEAR!
TAKA-AKI
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
HE'S JUST SPOUTING CRAP
I HAVE YOUR ANSWER
YOUR SON
R— REALLY ?!

SA-
KU-
YA!
SA
DO YOU HAVE ANY MEDICINE? MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S SPLITTING IN HALF
OH
SAKU-YA!!
THANK GOD YOU'RE ALIVE!!
EH?
SAKUYA! SO YOU WERE HERE!!
EH?
SA-KUYA!
BDMP
OH SAKUYA, WE WERE SO WORRIED!
BDMP
BDMP
THANK GOD!
WHAT
HUH?! KAGUYA IS SAKUYA?
NO WAY! YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS, TAKAAKI?
OF COURSE NOT!

SAKU KAGU
YA!
DASH
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S GOING ON...
HUFF
JUST WHAT'S GOING ON!
HUFF
THROB
UGH!
OW...
THROB
I FEEL LIKE SHIT
IT HURTS
THROB
I'M GOING TO THROW UP
THROB
KA-GUYA!
SLUMP
GWG...
AH...
UGH...

IT HURTS!
MY HEAD HURTS SO MUCH!
KA-GUYA!
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED?! YOU JUST
MY MIND IS OVER-FLOWING
SAKUYA
SNOW?
WHO'S THAT?
NARU-HITO! GET A HORSE!
MY HEAD!
HELP ME!
TAKA-AKI!
!!
.....!

CHERRY BLOSSOMS OUT OF SEASON
SAKUYA
THE MOON
MY ...
MY ...

HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?!
KA-GUYA?!
MY NAME ...
AH
AH!
AHHH!
AHH!
REMEMBER.
AH!
KAGU-YA!
I ...
URGH!
KA-GUYA?!

WHOA, THAT'S SO COOL! YOU REALLY DO LOOK JUST LIKE ME!
THE ONE STANDING IN FRONT OF ME
THAT'S THE SAME FACE AS I
THAT'S TOTALLY AMAZING!
I'M SO GLAD TO MEET YOU!
FATHER SAID WE COULDN'T EVER SEE EACH OTHER
HE WAS NAMED SAKUYA
IT'LL BE OUR SECRET, 'KAY? LET'S MEET AGAIN!
BECAUSE HIS SMILE WOULDN'T STOP, JUST LIKE THE FLOWERS WOULDN'T STOP FLUTTERING IN THE WIND
THE SAME FACE
THE SAME VOICE
BORN FROM THE SAME MOTHER
WE'RE TWINS

WANNA KNOW WHY I'M HERE?
I'M SUPPOSED TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
SO POCHI.
TAMA,
SHIRO
AHA HA HA
WHAT NAME DO YOU WANT?
IF YOU'LL STAY WITH ME...
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
MUNCH
YOU KNOW, THEY SAY THAT OLDER TWINS ARE REINCARNATIONS OF DEMONS.
MUNCH MUNCH
YOU GUYS ARE USUALLY ABANDONED IN A RIVER OR SOMETHING,
BUT THEY FELT TOO BAD ABOUT THAT.
MUNCH MUNCH
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A NAME?
THAT'S EASY IT'S SINCE YOU'RE A BAD SEED

TODAY I UNDERSTOOD THAT WHAT I'D TAKEN FOR NATURAL WAS REALLY
mew
mew
NIKI,
YOU CAN'T GO THERE.
IT'S BAD LUCK.
EVEN THAT TINY ANIMAL
HAS A NAME.
THIS DAMP, GLOOMY ROOM IS MY ENTIRE WORLD.

WE DECIDED TO MEET ONCE EVERY FOUR DAYS.
I BROUGHT SOME PASTRIES TODAY.
NO.
MY GUARD IS ALWAYS AWAY.
YOU WEREN'T DISCOVERED?
HERE! OVER HERE!
AND SAME VOICE ...
IT WAS AS IF OUR POSITIONS WERE SOMEHOW REVERSED
HOW IS IT?
IT'S GOOD.
AND MY ONLY FRIEND ...
BUT HE WAS KIND

OUT OF SEASON ...
ISN'T IT AMAZING? IT'S FALL, BUT THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE BLOOMING.
SO WHAT WAS THIS THORN IN MY HEART?
THE MORE I MET WITH SAKUYA THE SHARPER THE THORN BECAME...
HEY
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO MEET?
CHERRY BLOSSOMS OUT OF SEASON
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO NICE TO ME?

HM?
SINCE
YOU'RE SO MISERABLE.

UGHHH— IT'S SO COLD. IT'S JUST GETTING COLDER AND COLDER.
BRRR
COULD YOU HURRY IT UP AND DIE ALL READY?
WITH YOU OUT OF THE PICTURE, I CAN GET OFF THIS CRAPPY JOB.
CRACK

SHUT IT, GEEZER.
OR I'LL TEAR YOU APART.
WHA
GHG!
UGH!
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT MY ACTIONS WERE IN BAD FAITH
GO AHEAD.
I—I'LL TELL THE MASTER!
JUST LIKE HIM
cough
cough cough
YOU BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING WILL GO OFF THE LAST
WHEN YOU'RE TRAPPED

SAKUYA WAS OPENLY CHEERFUL AND KIND.
IN SHORT, HE WAS AN IDIOT.
YOU WANT TO SWITCH PLACES?
YEAH
NICE IDEA! THEN YOU COULD GET A TASTE OF HOW I LIVE!
SOUNDS FUN!
AND THEREIN LAY HIS CRUELTY

AHHH!
SLAM
THAT YOU COULD HAVE BEEN ME?!
AND IN THE ORDER YOU COME OUT OF THE WOMB, SUCH DUMB LUCK.
GO ON IN, THERE'S SOMETHING COOL INSIDE.
LOOK AT YOU, YOU ...
HEY, I KNOW THIS GREAT PLACE
FOLLOW ME
THIS OKAY? IT'S ALL DARK.
DON'T WORRY.
SO SILENTLY PERFECTLY FRAGILE
WHAT I THOUGHT ABOUT IN THAT DARK ROOM OF MINE.

WH
OPEN UP!
LET ME OUT!
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HA HA HA HA
OH, DON'T WORRY, SAKUYA!
KIND TO ME...?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
SLAM
SLAM
I'VE BEEN KIND TO YOU!
I'LL BE TAKING YOUR PLACE FROM NOW ON!
DID YOU HAVE FUN WITH YOUR LITTLE CHARITY CASE?
HMM?
SMACK

SHUT THE HELL UP!
IT JUST MADE YOU FEEL GOOD TO BE NICE, RIGHT?
DIDN'T YOU GET THAT YOU WERE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME?
AREN'T I RIGHT?
YOU NEVER ONCE ASKED FOR MY NAME
YOU KNOW
YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUSLY SCARED OF ME
SO YOU DECIDED TO PLAY NICE

UGH
AH
AH

SO THEN?
YOU FELL OFF A CLIFF, RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED?!

AH
IS WHAT YOU JUST SAID TRUE?
KAGUYA

AFTER THAT, I PRETENDED TO BE SAKUYA AND TOOK HIS PLACE.
BUT NO ONE— NO ONE WENT LOOKING FOR ME,
OR EVEN REALIZED WHO IT WAS WHO'D GONE MISSING
—
AND WHEN I TOLD THEM TO GO AND SEARCH
?
SEARCH FOR WHO, SAKUYA?
THAT ...
ISN'T MY NAME!!
SOMEONE...

I WANTED TO LET SAKUYA OUT,
SO I RAN OFF IN A PANIC.
LOOK AT ME.
THEN
I DIDN'T CARE IF I'D BE PUNISHED
TELL ME YOU LOVE ME.
!!
JUMP
SOMEONE...

CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
AHHHHHH!
TELL ME MY NAME
FU
JI
THE OUMAGA FOREST IN YAMASHINA ...
WHERE'S SAKUYA TRAPPED?!
TAKAAKI, WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!
CLOMP
CLOMP
AND YOU COME TOO!
WHERE?!
TAKAAKI! I'VE GOT THE HORSE!
CLOMP
CLOMP
NARUHITO! GET ALL THE SERVANTS FROM THE HOUSE AND BRING THEM HERE!
YOU TWO, TAKE CARE OF KAGUYA!

CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
EVEN IF WHAT HE SAID WAS ALL TRUE
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUDGE GOOD VERSUS EVIL
CLOMP
CLOMP
I JUST WANT TO KNOW ...
THE TRUTH.

MASTER! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
LET'S MOVE THIS ROCK!!
EH?
IT'S COVERING SOMETHING.
IF YOU CAN MOVE IT A LITTLE ...
THIS IT?
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!
HEAVE!
THE TRUTH THAT ONLY KAGUYA, SAKUYA, AND I WILL KNOW

IF SAKUYA'S DEAD, THEN NOTHING WILL EVER BE SURE
UGH,
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
CLONK
HEY! IS ANYONE HERE?!
GET ME A TORCH!

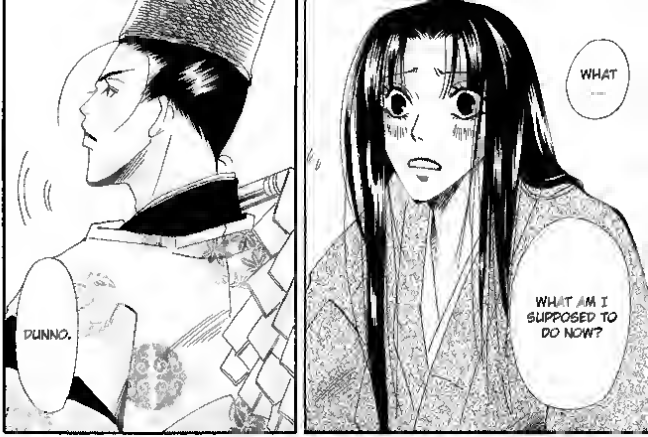
IF HE'S DEAD
AHH, WHAT'S THAT?!
SHH!
WHEEZE
SHEEZE

SHOULD I NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN?

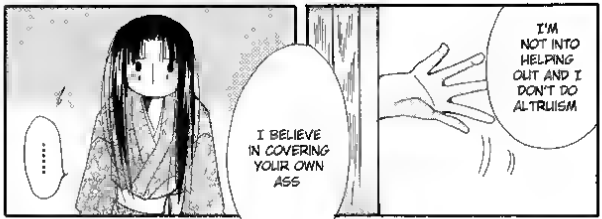
BI
BING
BING
BI
BING
HM?
DAMN, I'VE BEEN PLAYING A WHILE, TOO.
IT'S KILLING MY HEAD.
TAKAAKI, QUIT IT.
QUIET! NEXT MONTH I'M GOING TO BE A LUTE TEACHER
BING

I'M FINE
IT'S JUST LIKE HAVING THE PAST ADDED TO THE PRESENT, THAT'S ALL
SO? HOW ARE YOU TAKING HAVING YOUR MEMORY BACK?
BING
YOU SERIOUS?
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT EGO?
AND HERE I THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING HUGE WOULD HAPPEN, SOMETHING MORE EARTH-SHATTERING
BUT WHAT I DID...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
BING
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?
HEY
ARE THEY GOING TO KILL ME?

SAKUYA SAID, "I FELL AND BROKE MY LEG, AND I JUST COULDN'T MOVE."
SO THAT'S HOW THINGS ARE
!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS THINKING WHEN HE SAID THAT,
BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH.
DUNG
Damnit
THIS LUTE SUCKS
I'M GETTING ANOTHER ONE
TAKA-AKI!


WHAT
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
DUNNO.

THAT'S COLD!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
TOO BAD
hmph
WHEN SOMEONE'S UPSET YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CHEER THEM UP AND MAKE THEM FEEL BETTER!


I'M NOT INTO HELPING OUT AND I DON'T DO ALTRUISM
I BELIEVE IN COVERING YOUR OWN ASS
.....

GEEZ
I JUST WANTED SOME ADVICE
FUMP
THE HELL?!
I'LL TELL YOUR FORTUNE
YOUR FUTURE'S SECURE FROM NOW ON
SINCE I'M HERE,
AND SO IS GRAMPS AND GRANNY, AND NARUHITO TOO.

YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT ONE WAS FREE OF CHARGE
YOUR FORTUNE'S ON THE RISE, AND WHETHER OR NOT IT FALLS IS UP TO WHAT YOU DO STARTING NOW.
END OF STORY.
TAKA-AKI!

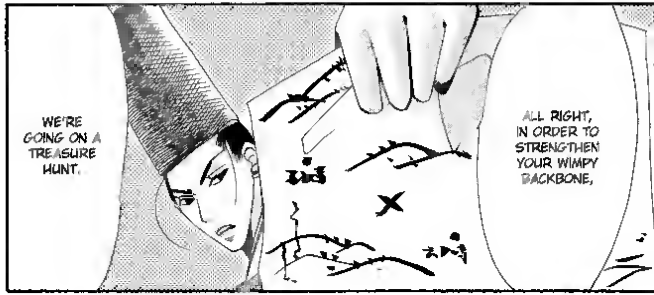
CAN I STAY HERE?
CAN ...

.....

IT'D BE PRETTY BLEAK AROUND HERE IF YOU WERE GONE.

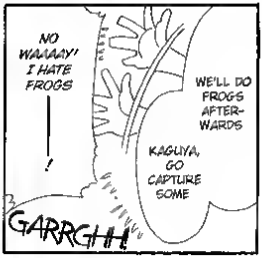
HELP ME!
SLAM
TAKAAKI!

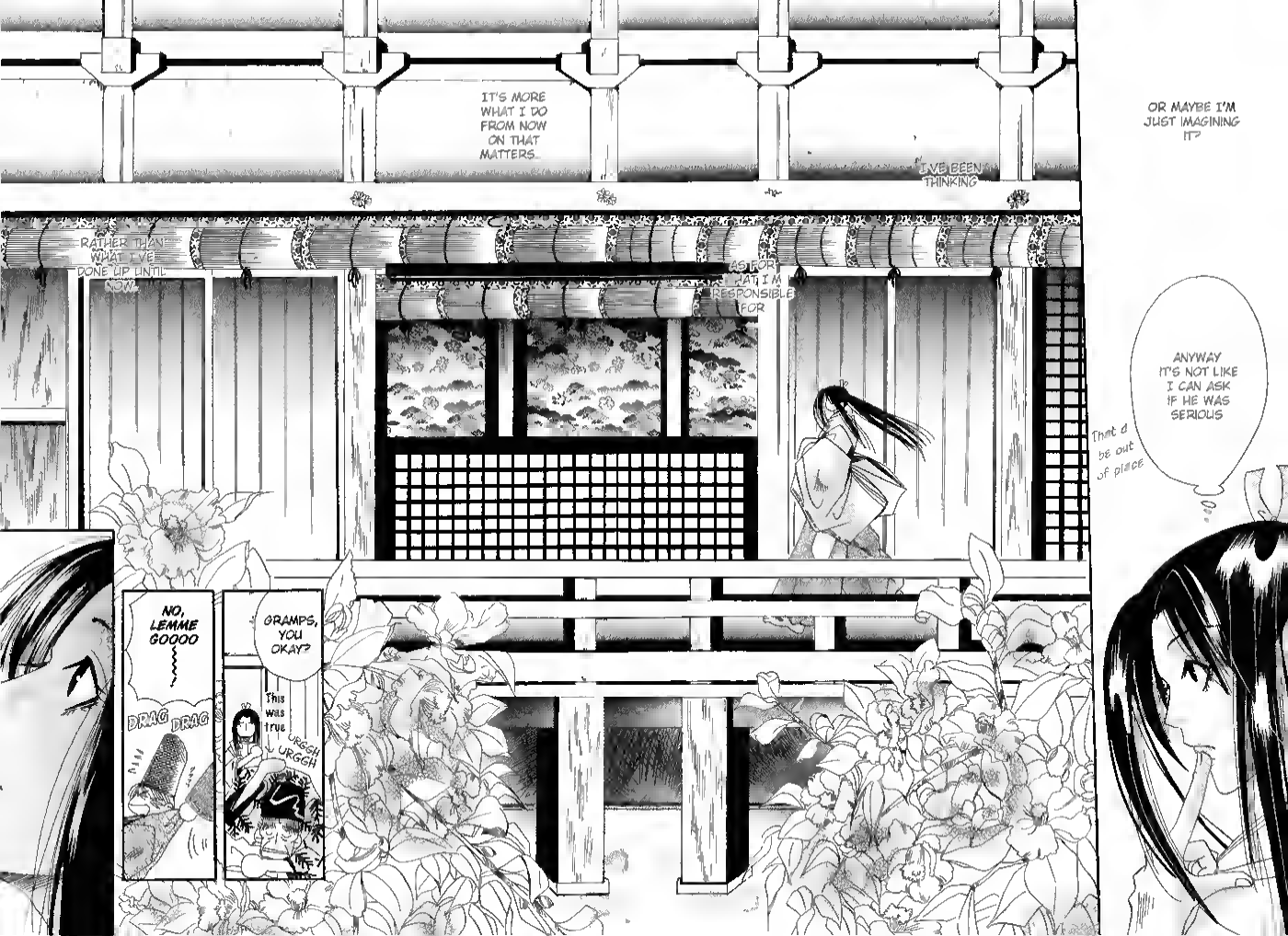
YOU'RE UTTERLY PATHETIC, YOU KNOW.
WAHHH!
AGAIN?
TOU— TOU NO CHUUJOU STOLE MY GIRL!! WHAT CAN I DO


WE'RE GOING ON A TREASURE HUNT.
ALL RIGHT, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN YOUR WIMPY BACKBONE,

GRRR
NO WAY!!
GRAMPS' HEMORRHOIDS ARE ACTING UP, GRANNY'S AT THE RIVER DOING LAUNDRY, AND WE NEED SOMEONE ELSE IN OUR TEAM
I'LL BE THE LEADER!
BY DIVINATION I'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE BONES OF YAMATA NO OROCHI* ARE BURIED AROUND HERE
WHAT TREASURE?

* A GIANT EIGHT-HEADED SNAKE




IT'S MORE WHAT I DO FROM NOW ON THAT MATTERS...
I'VE BEEN THINKING
OR MAYBE I'M JUST IMAGINING IT?
RATHER THAN WHAT I'VE DONE UP UNTIL NOW.
AS FOR WHAT I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR
ANYWAY IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN ASK IF HE WAS SERIOUS
That'd be out of place
NO, LEMME GOOOO
DRAG DRAG
GRAMPS, YOU OKAY?
This was true
URGGH URGGH

OH, MOON, ETERNALLY ENSHRINED IN THE SKY ...

WON'T YOU CONTINUE TO SHINE YOUR RADIANCE ON ME?

MANGETSU MONOGATARI CHAPTER TWO / END

MANGETSU MONOGATARI

NAKAMURA SHUNGIKU

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STORM IN HEAVEN

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満月物語
MANGETSU MONOGATARI
WATCH OUT FOR YOURSELF. THERE'S A RUMOR....
CLA-T
THAT RECENTLY ON THE GOJOU BRIDGE
AHHH!
A DEMON'S BEEN APPEARING.

MANGETSU
MONOGATARI
満月物語
chapter 3

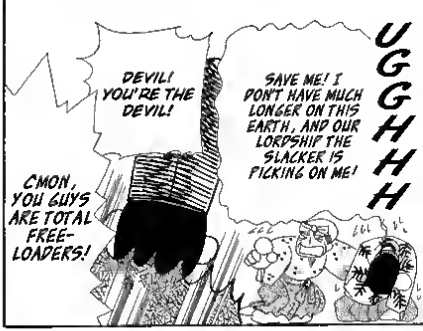
FUJIWARA NO TAKAAKI, CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED
MY EXPULSION'S BEEN REVOKED AND THEY WANT ME BACK AT COURT?

CONGRATS!
HA!
Takeaki's friend, Fujiwara no Naruhito
YEAH! AND YOU'RE GETTING PROMOTED TO COUNSELOR, TOO!
Freeloader #3 "Granny"
Freeloader #2 "Gramps" (Sanuki no Miyatsuko), who took care of Kaguya
DUNNO
IS A COUNSELOR THAT GREAT?
Kaguya ("Princess"), a freeloader staying at Fujiwara no Takeaki's place

SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
HMPH! YOU TOTAL MORON!
...what a nice guy...
I KNEW THEY WOULDN'T LEAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU OUT HERE
I'M SO TOTALLY HAPPY
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY FOREVER AND EVER!

THIS IS TOO LITTLE TOO LATE
JUST WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WOULD THROW SOMEONE OUT LIKE A STRAY CAT?

C'MON, GO FOR IT! THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE A PURPOSE IN LIFE.
BESIDES I BET THERE'S SOME OTHER MOTIVE BEHIND THIS...
SURE AM.
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO REFUSE THE OFFER?
FIRST IS COINS, THEN GOLD!
WHO NEEDS LOVE WHEN YOU'VE GOT CASH?
SHINE
MINE'S CASH!
SHINE
TAKE GRAMPS FOR EXAMPLE
FLAP
FLAP
clap clap clap
DON'T PUT ME ON YOUR LEVEL...
.....
COUGH COUGH COUGH
UGHHH!
I HEARD YOU WENT AND SOLD OFF SOME OF MY FURNITURE AGAIN!
OH YEAH, Y'OLD GEEZER!


UGGHHH
SAVE ME! I DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER ON THIS EARTH, AND OUR LORDSHIP THE SLACKER IS PICKING ON ME!
DEVIL! YOU'RE THE DEVIL!
CMON, YOU GUYS ARE TOTAL FREE-LOADERS!

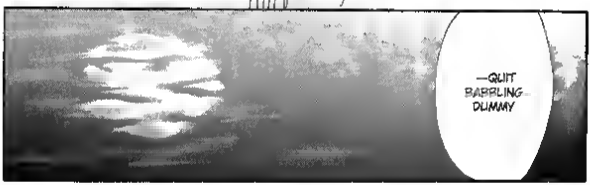
THE EMPEROR HIMSELF GAVE ME THE NEWS.

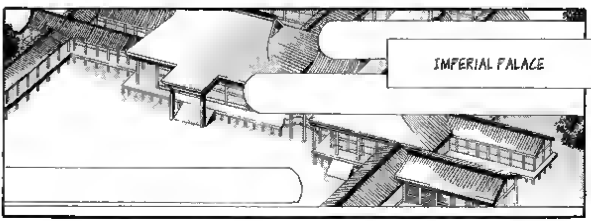
ANYWAY TAKAAKI, YOU SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER GOING BACK TO COURT

THE EMPEROR?

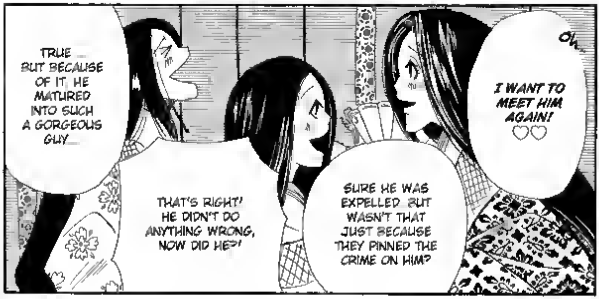
I DOUBT YOU KNOW,
BUT AN ARISTOCRAT GETTING REMOVED FROM OFFICE IS A HUGE BLACK MARK.
THEY MADE ME LEAVE AND NOW THEY WANT ME BACK. NO HARM DONE.
ARE YOU STILL WORRYING?
IF IT BUGS YOU, JUST GO AND GET EVEN
YOUR PRIDE WON'T LET YOU?
YOU'RE WEIRD.
IT'S NOT?
YA KNOW. IF I HAD EVEN THE TINIEST DESIRE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT, I'D GIVE IT A WHIRL. THAT'S JUST ME
SHE'S RIGHT!
BLAM!
GO BACK GET ALL-POWERFUL
THEN TOTALLY SHOW-UP THOSE BASTARDS WHO SET YOU UP!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE...

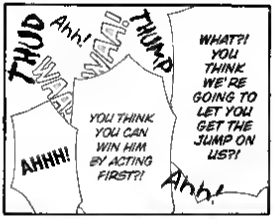
WELL DO IT OR DON'T...
SO LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY, I AM


—QUIT BABBLING DUMMY


IMPERIAL PALACE

CLACK
I NEVER
THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD COME
YES
I'VE COME HOME
A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE'S OPINIONS RUN RAMPANT
THE GRAVITY
THE SPLENDOR

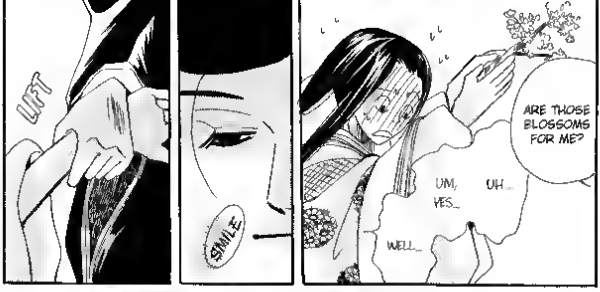

Oh...
I WANT TO MEET HIM AGAIN! ♡♡
SURE HE WAS EXPELLED, BUT WASN'T THAT JUST BECAUSE THEY PINNED THE CRIME ON HIM?
THAT'S RIGHT! HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, NOW DID HE?
TRUE... BUT BECAUSE OF IT, HE MATURED INTO SUCH A GORGEOUS GUY...


WHAT?! YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO LET YOU GET THE JUMP ON US?!
YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN HIM BY ACTING FIRST?!
THUD
THUMP
WAA!
WAA!
AHH!
Ahh!

EH? WHAT'S THAT?
HEHEHE I FOUND A NICE SPRIG.
DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO GIVE THAT TO HIM?!

.....
AHH, UMM, EERR...

PUMP


LIFT
SMILE
ARE THOSE BLOSSOMS FOR ME?
UM, YES...
UH...
WELL...

These blossoms make the whole of this fleeting world beautiful.
Because the flowers you love are here, you love all that is growing on this world
(I.E. Because the one you love is here, you love all the world.)

Kya...
ua!

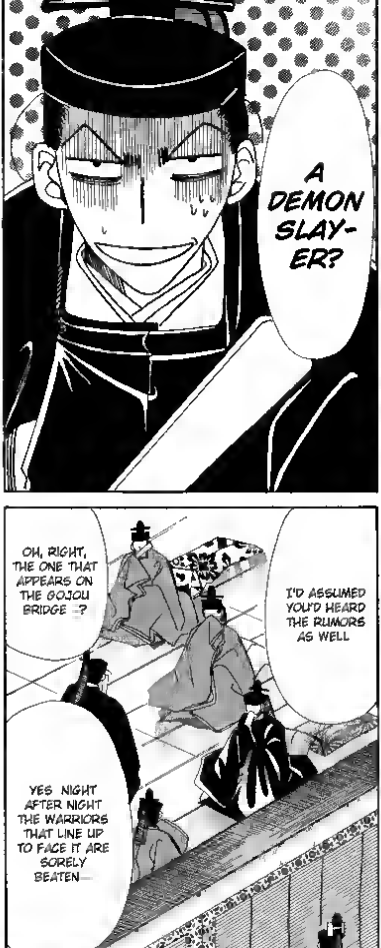
KAGUYA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
KA
POP
IT JUST SORTA SEEMED LIKE FUN.
SO? HE GETTING ON WELL?
LISTEN. HERE AT THE PALACE TAKAAKI ONLY HAD ONE RIVAL FOR MOST POPULAR.
THAT WOULD BE...
OH LOOK THERE HE IS
Geez. how'd you get in here...?!
WHOA. TAKAAKI'S TOTALLY GOT THIS NICE-GUY ACT GOING ON.
HURRY UP AND HIDE! IF THEY FIND YOU, YOU'RE DEAD!
PRINCE SHIKIBU
MY, MY...
IF IT ISN'T TAKAAKI. LONG TIME NO SEE

HA HA
RATHER YOU STILL SEEM TO BE LIVING ENGROSSED IN THE PLEASURES OF LIFE, MY PRINCE
I NEVER DID SEE YOU TAKE ON ANYTHING OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
HA
I WAS CERTAIN YOU'D BECOME A MONK OR SOME SUCH THING, BUT...
IT SEEMS YOU STILL HAVE SOME LINGERING ATTACHMENT TO THIS EARTHLY WORLD

ha ha ha ha
ZZZSSST
ZZZSSST
ha ha ha ha

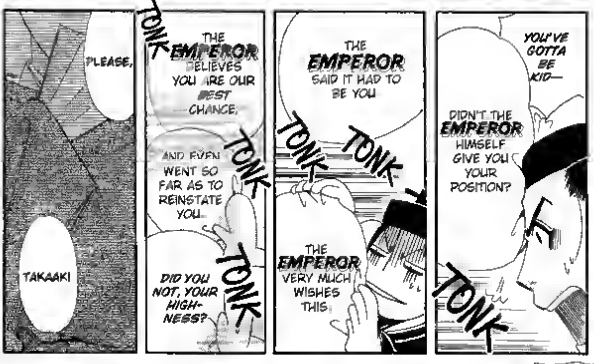
Let me meet her! Or at least have her answer my letters!
Can't help ya, Daddy!
HE KEPT ON BRINGING EXPENSIVE GIFTS, TOO. SO GRAMPS WAS TOTALLY THRILLED.
HE KEPT ON COMING BY OUR PLACE BACK WHEN I WAS CONNING PEOPLE AS "PRINCESS KAGUYA."
EH?!
THEY'RE SCARY...
I KNOW THAT GUY

click
BUT ENOUGH OF THAT TAKAAKI
YEAH, HE IS THE KINDA GUY THAT CHASES PRETTY GIRLS
What a small world...
HAHAHA! THIS IS GOING TO BE INTERESTING
MAKE SURE TO DO YOUR BEST
MY
YOU DON'T DO YOU?
NOW WHY WERE YOU ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE PALACE?
YOU DO KNOW THE REASON DON'T YOU?
COUNSELOR, THE EMPEROR IS WAITING
As sarcastic as always
WHAT'S WITH HIM...?


EXCUSE ME?
I'D ASSUMED YOU'D HEARD THE RUMORS AS WELL
OH, RIGHT, THE ONE THAT APPEARS ON THE GOJOU BRIDGE —?
YES NIGHT AFTER NIGHT THE WARRIORS THAT LINE UP TO FACE IT ARE SORELY BEATEN—
A DEMON SLAY-ER?

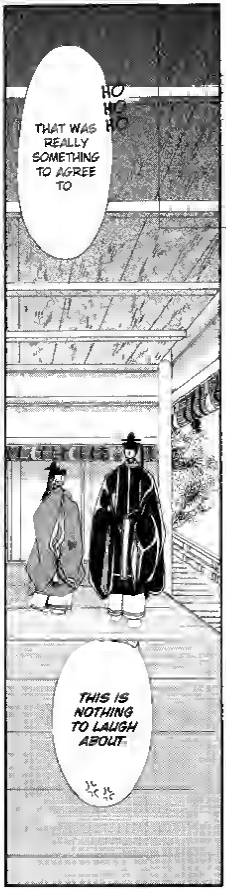
IT LOOKS LIKE A CHILD COVERED IN A WOMAN'S ROBE AND MOVES AS THOUGH IT WERE A GOBLIN
IT NEVER KILLS ANYONE,
BUT IT STEALS THEIR SWORDS THE RUMOR GOES THAT IT'S TAKEN A THOUSAND OR SO
COUNTLESS MEN HAVE ALL READY CHALLENGED IT BUT THEY'VE ALL BEEN UTTERLY DEFEATED
THE COUNTRY'S IN SAD STRAIGHTS, BEING UNABLE TO USE THAT BRIDGE...
NOW SLOW DOWN HERE...
SURELY THIS DEMON DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME
WHY NOT TELL ME WHAT MY DUTIES ARE?
HA HA HA
ned ned
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WANT ME TO CATCH THAT DEMON...
HAaaa
.....

whirl whirl wh
CONSIDERING THAT THE MARSHAL, NO, ALL THE STRONG MEN IN COURT HAVE BEEN DEFEATED,
YOUR MILITARY SKILLS ARE OUR LAST CHANCE TO DEFEND OUR HONOR...
WELL NOW, TAKAAKI ...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING A COUNSELOR WOULD DO.
THINGS LIKE THAT FALL UNDER THE MARSHAL'S AUTHORITY...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?


PLEASE, TAKAAKI
TONK
THE EMPEROR BELIEVES YOU ARE OUR BEST CHANCE.
AND EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO REINSTATE YOU.
DID YOU NOT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
THE EMPEROR SAID IT HAD TO BE YOU
THE EMPEROR VERY MUCH WISHES THIS.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KID—
DIDN'T THE EMPEROR HIMSELF GIVE YOU YOUR POSITION?

I KNEW THEY WERE JUST BAITING ME WITH THAT "COUNSELOR" CRAP
SHIT ...

PRINCE NAKATSUKASA...
UNCLE TO THE EMPEROR. HE'S A KIND AND GENTLE MAN WHO EXCELS IN BOTH MILITARY AND SCHOLARLY PURSUITS.
THE YOUNGSTERS HAVEN'T BEEN VERY DEPENDABLE LATELY, YOU SEE.


HO HO HO
THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING TO AGREE TO
THIS IS NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT...

BUT WHY ME...
HE'S TAUGHT ME QUITE A BIT, AND I RESPECT HIM.
MUTTER MUTTER
OH NO, YOU SEE, YOU WERE SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN TO DO THIS.

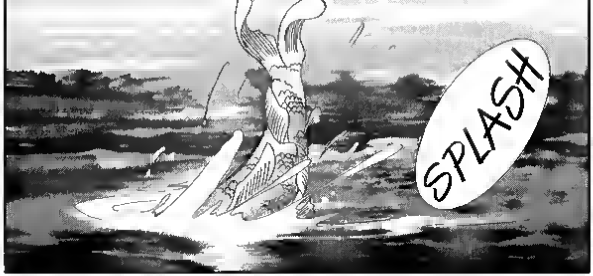
HEH'S HEH'S
A HA HA HA
THAT'S RIGHT...
THIS TIME AROUND YOU GET TO PLAY DEMON SLAYER, HMM?

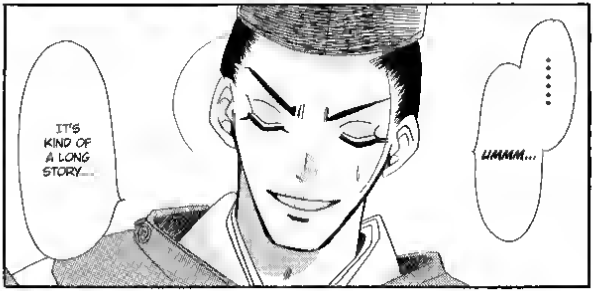
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
...HM?
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GET WHAT'S GOING ON IN HIS HEAD...
DO YOUR BEST ON THE NEW JOB!
SEEYA!
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT I'VE SEEN THAT EXPRESSION SOMEWHERE
OH!
AHAHAHAHA
GOLD, I TELL YA!
MONEY!!
HE LOOKS LIKE GRAMPS
SURPRISE! WELCOME BACK, TAKAAKI!
FUJIWAKA NO TAKAAKI'S MANOR

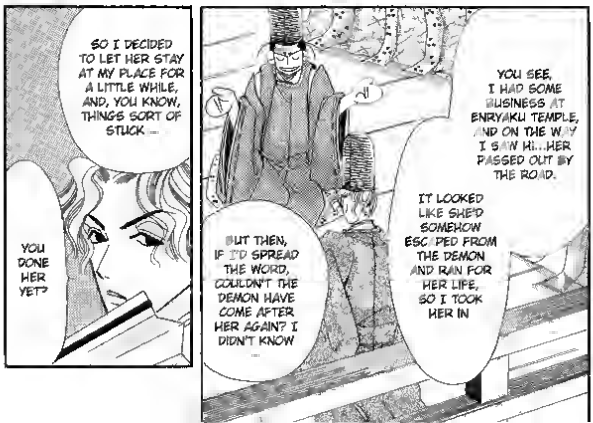
QUIT IT!
AND SURE AS HELL DON'T DO IT HERE!!
YEAH!
MASTER, PRINCE SHIKIBU HAS ARRIVED...
WHAT'S WITH THE GETUP?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING BACK TO PRETENDING SOME WEIRD CRAP TO CON GUYS OUT OF MONEY—?
YA SEE, SINCE YOU GOT A JOB AND ALL WE FIGURED WHAT WE HAD TO DO SOMETHING TOO
The hell?!
GET BACK IN THE HOUSE!!
REALLY?! DO YOU THINK HE BROUGHT A GIFT?
HUH?!
I BET THAT BASTARD'S HERE TO TEASE ME ABOUT THE WHOLE DEMON SLAYING THING!!
AHH...
IF THIS WORLD HAD NO CHERRY BLOSSOMS, OUR HEARTS WOULD BE TRANQUIL IN SPRING.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, TAKA...
"IF YOU'RE FASCINATED BY THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, YOU'LL FIND NO PEACE IN SPRING."

AKI
...
OH
MY...

HEY! I'VE GOT A NEW SCAM!
PRINCESS HACHIKA-BURI!
SHE'S A LADY THAT WEARS A POT ON HER HEAD
SHE'S YOUR SISTER?
NO YOU DIDN'T HAVE A SISTER...
WHICH LEAVES
TAKAAKI, WHEN EXACTLY DID YOU GET MARRIED?
WHAT?! I DON'T HAVE A WIFE! I'M NOT MARRIED OR ANYTHING!!
FU MP
SA—SANUKI NO MIYA-TSUKO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! AND YOUR WIFE TOO!
GAH! MY PRINCE... IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
WAIT A MINUTE. IF YOU'RE HERE THEN THAT MEANS
NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL! YOU'RE HALLUCINATING!!
THAT MEANS THAT SHE'S—
IDIOT! GET THE HELL INSIDE!!!
AHHH! AHHH!
PRINCESS KAGUYA ??!!


SPLASH


IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY...
HMMM...


SO I DECIDED TO LET HER STAY AT MY PLACE FOR A LITTLE WHILE, AND, YOU KNOW, THINGS SORT OF STUCK...
YOU DONE HER YET?
YOU SEE, I HAD SOME BUSINESS AT ENRYAKU TEMPLE, AND ON THE WAY I SAW HI...HER PASSED OUT BY THE ROAD.
IT LOOKED LIKE SHE'D SOMEHOW ESCAPED FROM THE DEMON AND RAN FOR HER LIFE, SO I TOOK HER IN
BUT THEN, IF I'D SPREAD THE WORD, COULDN'T THE DEMON HAVE COME AFTER HER AGAIN? I DIDN'T KNOW

I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'VE SCREWED HER ALL READY.
WHAT?
I DON'T SWING THAT WAY!!
SLAM
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! LIVING WITH A HOTTIE LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO WAY THE THOUGHT DIDN'T CROSS YOUR MIND!!
OF COURSE NOT!!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!
ANY GUY WOULD'VE HAD AT HER!
WHO THE HELL WOULD WANT A PIECE OF THAT!! YOU MORON!
...HM?
Kaoru's a guy... Huh? He's a girl!
OH...?

I GET IT. HE'S ONE OF THOSE GUYS
AHHH... THIS IS GETTING ALL MESSED UP...
HMPH
OH... THAT'S NICE.
I'M QUITE ABOVE SLANDERING A PERSON'S REFERENCES.
THIS IS A RARE CHANCE IF, LIKE YOU SAY YOU AREN'T INVOLVED WITH THE PRINCESS, THEN I'M STILL IN THE RUNNING.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
SNAP
VERY WELL
I'LL TAKE PART IN THAT DEMON SLAYING ... OF YOURS.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?
EH? WAIT A MINUTE —
NOW THAT THAT'S DECIDED, I'VE GOT SOME PREPARATIONS TO MAKE
OH, AND TAKAAKI...
THE ONE WHO CAPTURES THE DEMON GETS THE PRINCESS.

DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.
WHY D'YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SUCH A SMUG BASTARD?
.....
WHOA!
WHAT'D I HEAR?! DEMON SLAYING?!
THAT'S GONNA BE TOUGH! SOUNDS LIKE FUN, THOUGH!
GRAB
AND WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT THIS HAPPENED?!
STRANGLE
NIGHT
SLAM
ARRGGHH!
SLAM
CLANG THUD
IS AP-PROACH-ING
WAHH. TAKAAKI'S LOST IT!

THE GOJOU BRIDGE
IS IT REALLY COMING?
WHO KNOWS?
WHY M I HERE
tremble
tremble
tremble
BUT IS THE PRINCE PLANNING ON A WAR OVER THERE OR SOMETHING?
HE'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET KAGUYA
I DON'T WANT TO GO WITH HIM.
I'M STAYING WITH TAKAAKI
.....

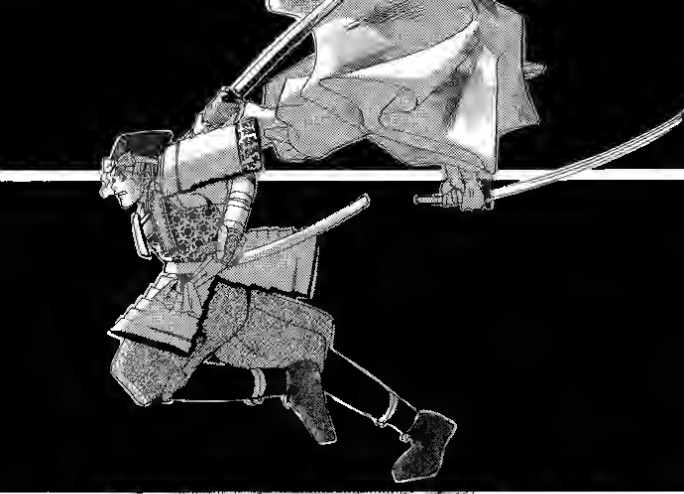
I DON'T HAVE THAT CONVICTION...

HE WANTS WHAT HE WANTS. AND THAT'S THAT.

WHOOSH
?!
CLACK
CLACK
SHH!
IT'S HERE!
CLACK
WHOOSH

AHHHHHH!
GET IT! THAT'S THE DEMON FOOLING WITH US!!
JUMP
SLAM
GAH!
GARGH!
AH!
THUD
THUD

SLASH
WHOA... ALL THAT BY HIMSELF...!
AAH!
ARGGH!
YOU'RE MINE!



GAH...

RUN FOR IT!!
AHHH!
AAHHH!
TURN
AHH, MASTER!
FUMP

AHH!
THAT'S IT, NOW!!
GRAB
?!
AH!
CHING
SWISH
TOSS
GRAMPS!
RARRRR!
THROWING A NET
AHH!
TOSSING SAND
GRANNY!
GOT IT!
FLAP

WAHOO! YIPPIE!
WIGGLE
WRIGGLE
STRUGGLE
ALL RIGHT, WE GOT IT!
AHH!
RAHH!
UGGH!
UGH!
THUMP
On its head (wig)
LET'S SEE YOUR FACE, YOU BRAT!
RUSTLE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MERCY! YOU'VE CAUSED THIS HUGE MESS!
MERCY, MERCY!
WHA

PRINCE NA-KAT-SU-KA-SA~!!?!
HO HO HO
SHOULDN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE GENTLE TO YOUR ELDERS,
TAKAAKI?
—WELL NOW,
HO HO HO
YOU SEE, AS I GREW OLDER, NOTHING SEEMED FUN ANYMORE.

NOW MY LIFE'S GOAL IS TO COLLECT A THOUSAND SWORDS
WHAT KIND OF GOAL IS THAT?!
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
JUST AS I FIGURED I WAS GOING TO GROW OLD AND DECREPIT,
I HAPPENED TO TRY ON THIS DISGUISE, AND EVERYTHING JUST FELL INTO PLACE.

EHEE HE
I'M THE EMPEROR'S UNCLE, AFTER ALL.
OH NO WORRIES THERE
JUST WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO IF SOMEONE ELSE HAD CAPTURED YOU?!

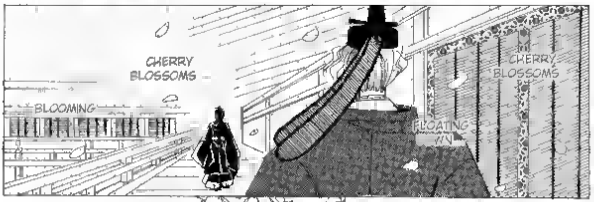
BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN THAT.
THEY ALSO CAME AT ME WITH FIRE IN THEIR EYES!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
PAT

EH?
OH!
BUT C'MON. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY WAKE UP?!
BUT

TO-TALLY
FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST HIS FACE, BUT REALLY, HE'S JUST LIKE GRAMPS!

HE HE HE
SINCE THEN
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME
THE DEMON'S NEVER APPEARED ON THE GOJOU BRIDGE AGAIN
AND THE EMPEROR WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED
TAKAAKI RETURNED WITH THE DEMON'S HAIR AND ALL THE SWORDS THAT HAD BEEN STOLEN THUS FAR...
Kaguyaa!
I've killed it
CLATTER
EVERYONE IN THE CAPITAL HAILED TAKAAKI AS A HERO
Kyaaa... the counselor!!
AND AS FOR PRINCE SHIKIBU, WHO'D OPPOSED HIM TO THE BITTER END...

OUR TRIUMPH IS BECAUSE OF THE PRINCE
IF THE DEMON HADN'T GONE AFTER HIM AND HIS MEN I DOUBT I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING
THE PRINCE IS THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE THANK-ING!
TAKAMI!

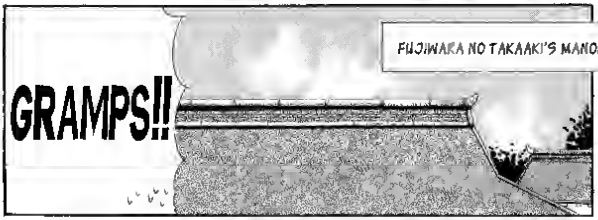


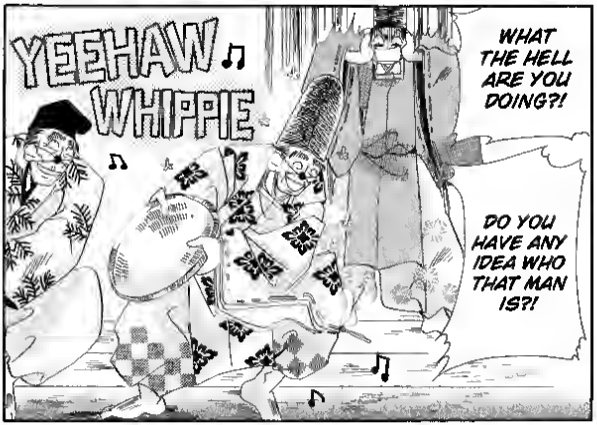
SO TOO DO THE FLOWERS OF LOVE.

EVERY-ONE'S SINGING YOUR NAME!
HMPH THAT'S ALL BECAUSE OF PRINCE NAKATSUKASA, NOT ANYTHING I DID
IT'S SO COOL!
EHH~ WHO'D'VE THOUGHT YOU WERE THE MODEST TYPE?
Wasn't you the one?
ANYWAY
I'M JUST GLAD I CAN STAY HERE WITH YOU

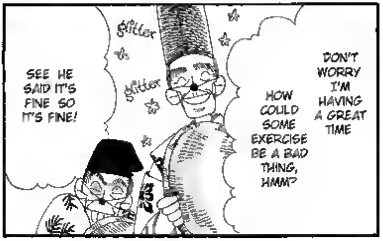
GET THAT THROUGH YOUR HEAD
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN MEN
LEMME SAY THIS RIGHT OFF THE BAT -
HEY
POKI
glomp
WELL, IF IT'S YOU I GUESS IT'D WORK
I'M TELLING YA, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!!
WOW, THAT'S A GOOD ONE—!
WHAT, YOU THINK THAT I WANT YOU——?!
ZAHAHAHAHAA
UWA HA HA HA HA
ZAHAHAA

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
HMMM, YOU'RE THE REALLY SHY TYPE, TAKAAKI AREN'T YOU?
SAY IT ONCE AGAIN—
I HAVE (THE) FEELING THAT WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER
AND THEN, WHEN ALL THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS HAD BLOOMED,
AND A FRAGRANT BREEZE RODE THE AIR


GRAMPS!!
FUJIWARA NO TAKAAKI'S MANOR

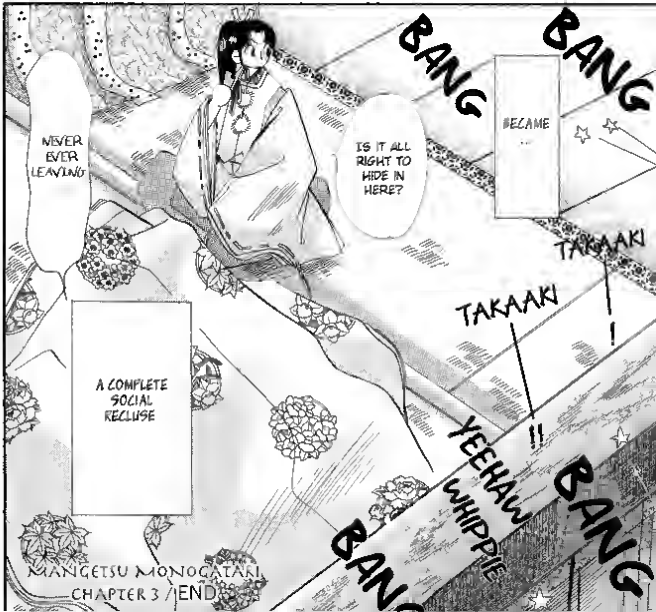

YEEHAW ♫
WHIPPIE
♫
♫
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THAT MAN IS?!

YEAH!
I BET WE WERE BROTHERS IN OUR LAST LIFE!
.....


SEE HE SAID IT'S FINE SO IT'S FINE!
Glitter
Glitter
HOW COULD SOME EXERCISE BE A BAD THING, HMM?
DON'T WORRY I'M HAVING A GREAT TIME

GAH!
PR—PRINCE SHIKIBU!
SO HOW ABOUT IT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK AND VIEW THE FLOWERS WITH ME?
THE FLOWERS ARE BEAUTIFUL, TAKAAKI.
TAKAAKI! YOU'VE GOT TO GET TO THE PALACE!! THE EMPEROR IS WAITING FOR YOU!!
DRAG DRAG DRAG
WITH NO ONE AROUND, WE CAN SPEND THE LONG SUMMER NIGHTS AT EASE IN MY UJI VILLA—
Gaahh!
GRAB
NO THAT'S OKAY—
DON'T BE LIKE THAT—

MUNCH MUNCH
YOU'RE REALLY POPULAR
IT'S CRAZY
THE COUNSELOR, WHO'D REGAINED HIS HONOR AND RETURNED TO OFFICE...


BANG
BANG
BECAME...
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO HIDE IN HERE?
NEVER EVER LEAVING
A COMPLETE SOCIAL RECLUSE
TAKAAKI
TAKAAKI
!!
YEEHAW WHIPPIE
BANG
BANG
GEKKA MONOGATARI
CHAPTER 3 / END

MANGESTSU MONOGATARI

NAKAMURA SHUNGIKU

SCANNER	HELIAL
TRANSLATOR	KALENDEL
EDITOR	ALAINA
QUALITY CHECK	KALENDEL

STORM IN HEAVEN

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Chapter 4
MANGETSU
MONOGATARI
満月物語

WHEN I WAS LITTLE MY MOM AND DAD PASSED ILL AND DIED
MY FIRST SET OF FOSTER PARENTS ALSO GREW SICK AND PASSED AWAY
MY SECOND FOSTER MOTHER WAS AWAY MOST OF THE TIME AND MY FOSTER FATHER HAD TOO MANY KIDS OF HIS OWN TO LOOK AFTER SO HE COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF ME
YOU COULD SAY THAT I'M GETTING PASSED AROUND
AND NOW FOR MY THIRD TRY

SHOCK

GLARE
BDMP BDMP
UM
HELLO
.....

TAKAAKI, FROM NOW ON NARUHITO WILL BE LIVING WITH US
WE'RE DISTANT RELATIVES, AND YOU'RE ABOUT HIS AGE
NOW BE FRIENDS.

HEH.
DASH
HE'S SCARY
TAKA-AKI!
COME BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE BRAT!!
SSST
I'M SORRY.
MY SON'S A LITTLE STRANGE...
BUT HE'S A GOOD KID UNDER IT ALL SO I'M SURE YOU CAN BE FRIENDS
AH, OKAY!
I'LL BE FINE!

AH
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE JUST A KID YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH
TRY TO KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP, OKAY?
PAT PAT
I'M SO GLAD
MOM, DID
MY NEAR POSTER FATHER SEEMS LIKE A GREAT GUY
SO THEY DON'T SEND ME AWAY AGAIN
I'VE GOTTA DO MY BEST...

I'LL GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

OH! GUESS WHAT HAPPENED THEN!
THE OLD MAN AND WOMAN COULDN'T UPROOT THE RADISH, SO THEY CALLED A MONKEY AND A DOG.
MUNCH MUNCH
THE FOUR OF THEM HEAVED AND HEAVED, BUT IT STILL WOULDN'T COME UP.
SO THEN THEY CALLED A CAT AND A PHEASANT!!
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
THE SIX OF THEM GRABBED HOLD AND PULLED...
AND PULLED...
MUNCH MUNCH

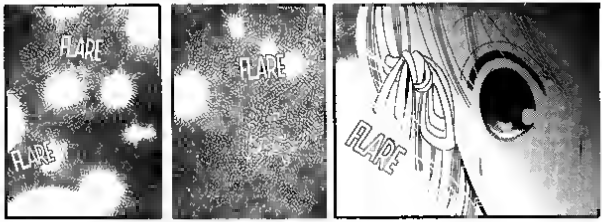
SO THEY DON'T SEND ME AWAY FROM HERE.

SO THAT THEY LIKE ME.

TAKAAKI! COME ON, LET'S GO BACK!
RUSTLE
WHY ARE WE GOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?!
I'M SCARED! THERE COULD BE DEMONS!
C'MON, TAKAAKI!
HEY
WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?

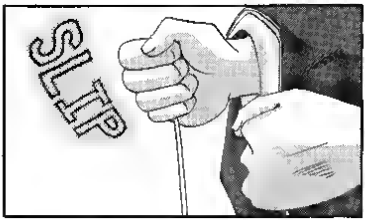
RUS
TLE
.....
'CAUSE I'M ITCHY.

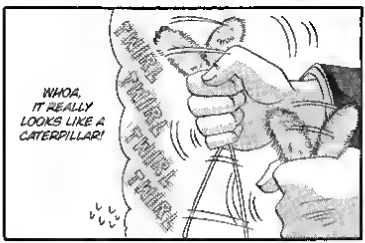
MMPH
I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL, TAKAAKI!!
??!!
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER!!


FLARE
FLARE
FLARE
FLARE

FUUSSSHH
FSSSHH
AH...
TAKAAKI
YEAH?
COOL
Pretty
YOU LIKE IT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!
THIS IS SO COOL!
YEAH!
IT'S COVERED IN FIREFLIES!!
THIS IS AMAZING!
YOOAAA!

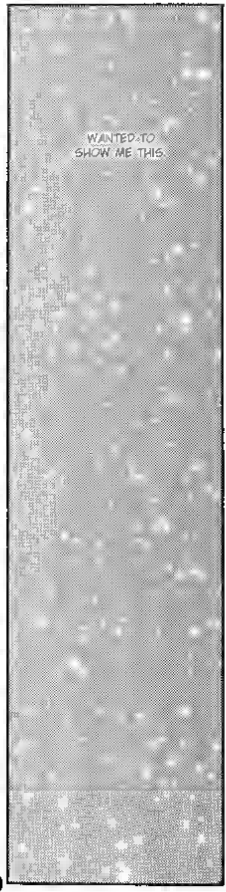
HE'S A NICE KID AFTER ALL
Though he doesn't say much


SLIP


WHOA, IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE A CATERPILLAR!
TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL

TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE
AHA HA HA HAA!

JOLT
STICKY SEEDS!
toss


WANTED TO SHOW ME THIS

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE GOTTEN TO PLAY AROUND LIKE THIS
I'M SO GLAD I CAME HERE!!
I GUESS I'M ANNOYING?
EH—?
WELL, YEAH—
SO—THEY COULDN'T KEEP LOOKING AFTER ME, OR SOMETHING—
WHY DO YOU KEEP MOVING?
THIS IS—
YOUR FOURTH PLACE
SINCE I'M SUCH AN IDIOT—
SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST LIKE THAT RIGHT?
EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO THEY COULDN'T CHANGE ME
STOP IT!
I'M JUST A BAD KID, AND THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!
AH, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY WERE BAD PEOPLE!
EHEHE

I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF THEMSELVES.
BDMP
!
HANG IN THERE!
CLACK
AHHH!
AHHH!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
CLACK
MASTER!!

FLUSTERED
OH MY
THOUGH HE SEEMED FINE THIS MORNING
WE DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT YOUR FATHER CAME DOWN WITH A FEVER WHILE AT COURT.
YOUNG MASTER!
CLACK CLACK
AHH, WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?!
HIS HEALTH HAS—
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING
IT'S HIS FAULT!!
IT'S SO SUDDEN
HEY!
THE LADY IS HAVING CHEST PAINS! SOMEONE BRING MEDICINE!
CLACK CLACK
SHOULD WE CALL AN HERBALIST?
WHAT?!
NO, CALL FOR A PRIEST!
CLACK CLACK

EVER SINCE THAT KID CAME HERE, THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND THIS PLACE HAS BEEN DIFFERENT!
EH...?
I KNOW WHY!
DON'T YOU SEE?! DISASTER HAS FALLEN ...
ON EVERY HOUSE HE'S STAYED AT!!
IT'S ALL HIS FAULT!!
THE EVIL SPIRITS FOLLOWED HIM HERE, I'M SURE OF IT!!

AND THEN OUR LADY'S HEALTH SUDDENLY TAKING A TURN FOR THE WORSE!
DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK THE LITTLE BOY—
THERE WAS ALSO A DEAD DOG JUST OUTSIDE!
THE MASTER GETTING SICK SO QUICKLY,
THINK ABOUT IT! LOTS OF STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING RECENTLY
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN TALK TO HIM, AS SICK AS HE IS NOW!
SHOULDN'T WE TALK WITH THE MASTER AND SEND THIS KID AWAY?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
DID YOU HEAR THAT THE HEADS OF THE HOUSEHOLDS HE WAS STAYING AT DIED?!
WHY ARE YOU JUST SMILING?!
HE'S CREEPING ME OUT!!

I KNOW THAT I'LL KEEP GETTING PASSED AROUND

AND NO MATTER WHERE I AM, I'LL JUST BE A BURDEN.

O

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST I DON'T WANT THEM TO HATE ME

MOM, DAD

I'LL BE FINE

BUT IF SMILING DOESN'T WORK...

TELL ME...

JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

SO NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, I'LL SMILE

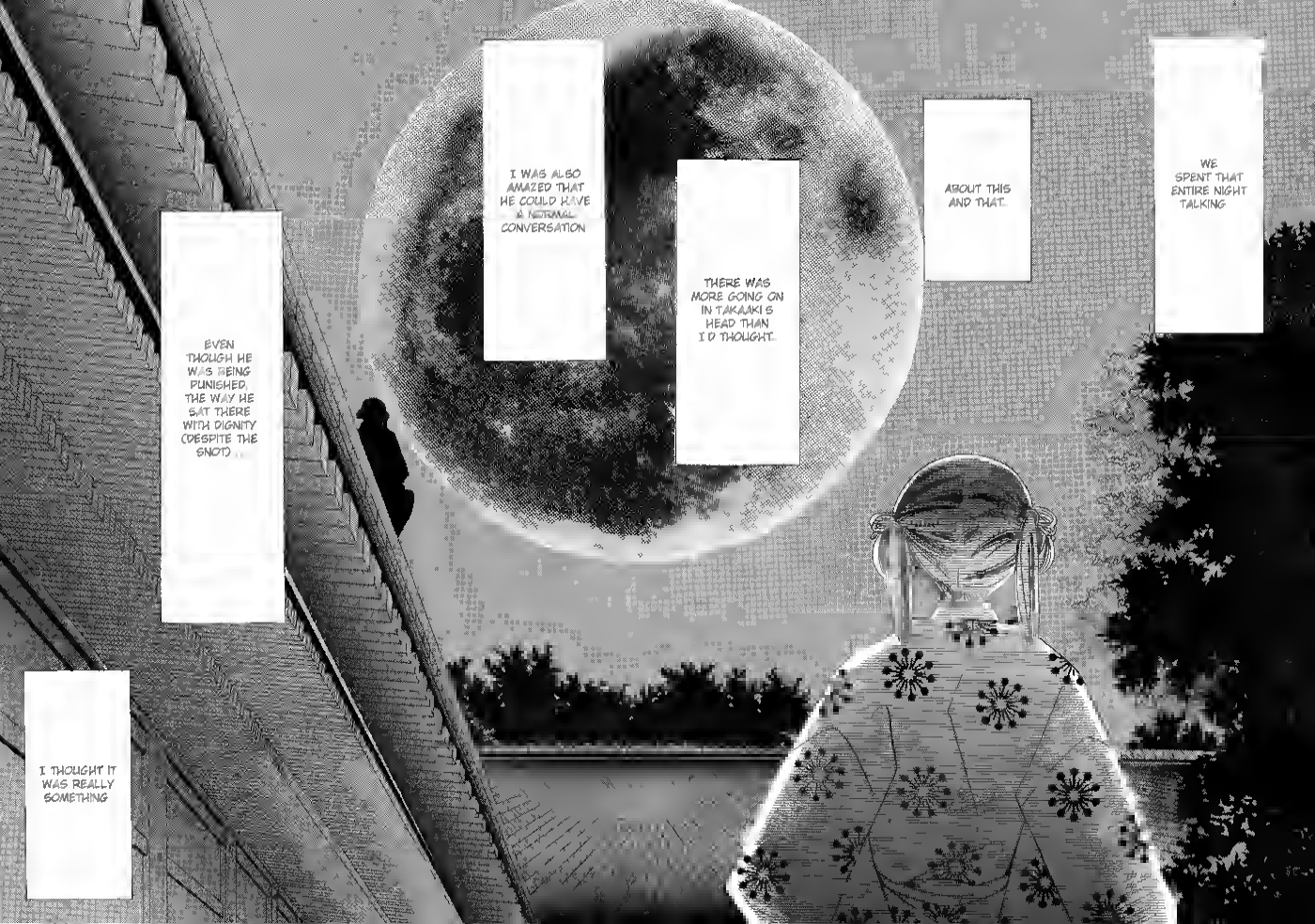
AND EVERYONE WILL FEEL BETTER

CRASH
AHHH!
THUD
THUMP
THUD
YOUNG MASTER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CRASH
MORONS! IDIOTS! RETARDS!
YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW?! YOU'VE BEEN TAKING PASTRIES,
AND STEALING MY MOM'S KIMONOS!
I'LL TELL MY DAD AND GET YOU ALL FIRED! NOW GET OUT!!
WHAT?!
SMASH
THUD
CLATTER
AHHHH!

IT'S OKAY, I'M USED TO IT!
TAKAAKI, QUIT IT!
AHH! AHH!
CRASH
FLOP
AHHH! PLEASE STOP, YOUNG MASTER!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE USED TO IT!!

nauseous
(left on the roof
as punishment)
SNIFF
.....
TAKAAKI,
ARE YOU
OKAY?!
I
know
that
DON'T FALL
DOWN! KEEP
HOLDING ON!!
NO
CRYING!
SO
DON'T
SAY
YOU'RE
SORRY!
THIS IS
NOTHING.
IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT THIS
HAPPENED
TO YOU!
I'M SO
SORRY!
SNIFFLE

HOW HE LOOKED RIGHT THEN
EVEN DOWN TO THE SNOT DRIPPING OFF HIS NOSE HE WAS SO DIGNIFIED

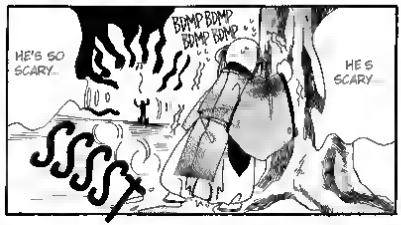

I THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY SOMETHING
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING PUNISHED, THE WAY HE SAT THERE WITH DIGNITY (DESPITE THE SNOT)...
I WAS ALSO AMAZED THAT HE COULD HAVE A NORMAL CONVERSATION
THERE WAS MORE GOING ON IN TAKAAKI'S HEAD THAN I'D THOUGHT.
ABOUT THIS AND THAT...
WE SPENT THAT ENTIRE NIGHT TALKING

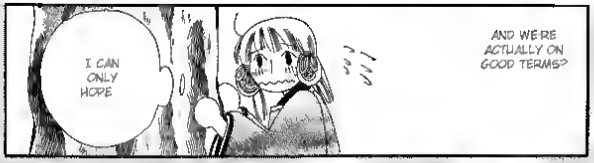
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND DO THAT?!
YOU WAIT 'TILL I'M BEDRIDDEN AND THEN TAKE YOUR CHANCE!
TCHOK
DONK
TAKAAK!!!
DASH
TAKAAK!!
DAMN IT, COME BACK HERE!
TELL HIM HE'S AN IDIOT.
EH?
OH, OKAY.
TAKAAKI DIDN'T TALK AT ALL.
NARUHITO, CAN YOU DO IT? IT LOOKS LIKE HE ACTUALLY TALKS TO YOU
I GIVE UP.
HUFF

MAYBE HE USED UP A WHOLE YEAR'S WORTH OF TALKING IN THAT ONE NIGHT
IF I THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY I FEEL KIND OF GUILTY
TAKAAKI!
UM...
THANKS FOR YESTERDAY!

HEH.

MAYBE THAT SMILE ISN'T REALLY EVIL


HE'S SO SCARY...
BUMP BUMP BUMP BUMP
HE'S SCARY...
SSSSS


I CAN ONLY HOPE
AND WE'RE ACTUALLY ON GOOD TERMS?

MOM, DAD
IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE MADE A FRIEND
MANGETSU MONOGATARI
CHAPTER 4 / END

GRIN
SPLITS
HIS FACE
IN HALF

WHAT'S WRONG YOU CAN'T SLEEP?
YEAH, I'VE GOT SOME STUFF ON MY MIND...
KAGUYA
SINCE HE'S CARRYING AROUND A HEAVY PAST...
DUMMY, I TOLD YOU NOT TO KEEP IT ALL TO YOURSELF!
TELL ME WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU!
IF NO ONE'S THERE TO HELP HIM OUT...
TAKAAKI...
EXTRA MANGA

IT'S THIS.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT EVER SINCE I SAW IT THE OTHER DAY.
A CAP?
YUP!
Typical Way to Wear a Cap
① After you tie your hair tight with a cord tie it end over end three times and bind it to the top of your head
② Put the bun inside the hollow part of the cap and fit it to your head
hollow
inside back
brow
front
③ With the stick, go left and right through the hollow part where your hair is
stick
STAB
④ Attach the flaps to the back
flaps
Wahoo!
DONE!
THIS IS THE PIVOTAL POINT RIGHT HERE.
point
IF YOU WEAR IT PROPERLY, AND YOU RUN AT FULL SPEED...

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLA
SOMETHING LIKE THIS'LL HAPPEN.
CLAPCLAPCLAPCL

"MAYBE IT'S FINALLY TIME TO KICK HIM OUT,"
IS WHAT FUJIWARA NO TAKAAKI WAS THINKING.
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT KEEPS ME UP!
THAT WOULD BE AWESOME...
HEY, TAKAAKI, I WANNA SEE...
I WANNA SEE IT SO BAD!
EXTRA MANGA END.

Postscript

Hi there, Nakamura here
Thanks so much for reading the manga. This is my first manga published with Bibles, so I'm all anxious
Anyway, as usual when drawing manga from a different era, I had questions
So I asked my friend
SERIOUS!
She just calmly replied
I didn't think members of the court in the Heian period ever sprinted like that
Yup.
That's true
I was a little off the ball that night
I'd love it if you sent in your thoughts! Thanks
I wonder what they really did